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Minimum wage rises by 75 cents

INCREASE The minimum wage in Ontario will increase to $10.25 per hour effective today — an increase of 75 cents.

The wage has increased each year since 2004, when it stood at $6.85 per hour, after being frozen between 1995 and 2004.

With the latest increase, the rate will have grown by almost 50 per cent since 2004.

In 2004, the hourly rate was $6.85 per hour until it was increased to $7.15 on Feb. 1 of that year.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Weddings pg 24
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Saniya Khan **Fashion**

CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

A model displays a creation by Saniya Khan yesterday on the catwalk during Toronto Fashion Week. Khan tapped into her ancestral history in Pakistan, Afghanistan and eastern Persia for inspiration and techniques to craft the modern-day designs showcased yesterday.

Keeping the faith

Toronto archbishop defends Pope's actions during crisis

Minutes after warning more than 200 priests there will always be among them those who will betray the innocent, the archbishop of Toronto strongly defended the Pope's actions during the most serious crisis facing the Roman Catholic Church in decades.

Archbishop Thomas Collins

"This is the man who has done so much. He's led the way," Archbishop Thomas Collins told reporters in a courtyard of St. Michael's Cathedral in Toronto. "Of all the people to become the target of attacks in this, the Pope ... good grief."

Earlier, Collins addressed the congregation at a mass for priests where they renewed their commitment to the church.

A Catholic priest's duties set him apart and people trust him implicitly, the archbishop said. "And yet to our shame, some have used the awesome gift of the holy priesthood for base personal gratification, betraying the innocent and devastating their lives," he told the congregation.

The church has been besieged with scandals of child abuse involving priests — and now the Pope has also come under fire for his handling of sex abuse cases when he was archbishop of Munich, and when he headed the Vatican's doctrinal office, the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

But Collins said people are treating the Pope unfairly.

"As the cardinal, he was attacked for being too strict and now he's being attacked for being too lax. He's a fair and loving and holy man," the archbishop told reporters. "When he sees evil, he deals with it."

It might be tough to keep faith in the church in these times, but Collins said: "People, I hope, have the wisdom to see with full reality and understand it properly."

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Local

Cameras, cellphones added to recycling list

Cellphones and cameras can be recycled in Ontario starting tomorrow under a provincial program. There are over 500 collection spots across the province where people can bring in their old electronic equipment to be reused or recycled. While TVs and computers have been accepted for the past year the program was expanded today to bring the list up to 44 items, including MP3 players.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Steve Collins writes about the modern Canadian relationship in Relating.

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What's online today.

Blogs SpinDoctor, below, looks at how the Liberal Party is using its weaknesses to its advantage

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Opposition calls wage freeze 'phoney'

Top public sector managers eligible for performance pay

Opposition leaders attacked the Liberal government's promised wage freeze for about 350,000 non-unionized workers in Ontario's public sector as "phoney" yesterday, because some senior managers will actually be taking home more money next year.

McGuinty

The government used last week's budget to announce it was immediately freezing salaries for non-unionized civil servants and others paid by provincial taxpayers, including executives and managers at hospitals, universities and colleges.

However, it turns out some of those managers will still be eligible for higher performance pay as long as they weren't already receiving the maximum.

"It's complicated," Premier Dalton McGuinty told reporters. "Just because it's complicated for us to explain doesn't relieve us of the obligation to do what we know is fair in the circumstances."

The previous Conservative government restructured salaries for some government managers to make a portion of their pay related to performance. Scrapping the bonus would amount to a pay cut, McGuinty said.

The opposition parties weren't buying his explanation.

"We find out now after three or four days that Dalton McGuinty had claimed to be bringing forward a pay freeze that it's actually a phoney pay freeze," said Progressive Conservative Leader Tim Hudak.

New Democrats said the Liberals were protecting senior managers while forcing lower-paid middle managers and other non-unionized workers to take a real pay freeze.

McGuinty said the overall pool of money for performance pay will be frozen, which means the managers will be competing among themselves for the bonus money. THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

DEATH What was supposed to be a fist fight ended with a 16-year-old being fatally stabbed at a bus stop near his school in Oshawa, witnesses said. The Monsignor Paul Dwyer Catholic High School student was rushed to hospital, where he died, said police. An 18-year-old fellow student was arrested, and police said charges are pending. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Beaches **Playin' with the breeze**

RICHARD LAUTENS/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Greg Burns is seen on Woodbine Beach working with his quad line stunt kite. Toronto is supposed to heat up to the 20s by Good Friday. The western beaches were quiet yesterday, though a few people were out enjoying the sun.

Ontario tightens Taser rules

POLICING Ontario promised tighter rules yesterday around the use of stun guns by police, including against pregnant women and children, but left it up to officers to decide when Taser use is appropriate, a move critics said will do little to curtail abuses.

Ontario's new rules say that where possible the weapons' use should be avoided with a handcuffed person, pregnant women, elderly people, young children or a visibly frail person. Officers should also aim Tasers away from sensitive areas such as the head or genitals, and try not to use them on someone driving a car or bicycle. If the Taser is used on any of these so-called vulnerable population, police should ensure they get medical treatment.

Critics panned the changes as "grossly inadequate," saying they do little to address concerns raised amid incidents that have seen police use Tasers against youths or the mentally ill. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Fire guts west end warehouse

BLAZE It took 16 firetrucks and 75 firefighters to knock down a 3-alarm fire at Imperial Tool and Die Ltd.'s warehouse building yesterday on Toronto's west side.

No one was injured in the 7:30 a.m. fire that was likely caused by a heating appliance in the ceiling area, said Toronto Fire Capt. Mike Strapko.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Sixth man arrested in connection with 2006 shooting

Peel Region police arrested a sixth man in connection with the murder of Mervyn (Mikey) Spence, who was shot dead outside Malibu Marie nightclub on Steeles Avenue East in 2006. A Canada-wide warrant had been issued for the man, and last Wednesday Peel homicide detectives arrested the suspect in Vancouver. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Local child porn bust goes global

Evidence uncovered in a local child pornography investigation could lead to charges against dozens of people in 20 countries and while it may involve millions of images, Ontario police said yesterday that's just a drop in the bucket.

The investigation began in November with a tip from police in Edmonton that led to the arrest of a 29-year-old man in Brampton on child-pornography and sexual-assault charges, police said.

That probe went global, culminating in police gathering evidence against 73 people in 20 countries.

This kind of offence knows no boundaries in the Internet age, police said.

"While the Internet has evolved and shown its potential to assist society ... we need to remember that there are people out there whose use of the Internet will destroy the lives of our children and their families," said Peel Region Staff Supt. John Nielsen.

73 The 73 people involved in the bust are not believed to be a part of an organized network, but individuals.

Each of the suspects is believed to be in possession of hundreds, if not thousands or even millions of files containing millions of images of victims from around the world, said Insp. Bob Strain.

"The victimization of a child has a lifetime effect on their lives, their loved ones and the community at large," he said.

Despite the sweeping nature of this large-scale investigation, it represents just a small dent in the worldwide network of people trading in child pornography, said provincial police Det. Staff Sgt. Frank Goldschmidt.

"There are so many offenders out there," he said. "The Internet has provided that perfect tool for these people to find one another, to justify to one another that what they're doing is OK."

Offenders are using increasingly sophisticated technology, police say, and that complexity increases the work for police forces to keep up.

"The volume of the images and the caseloads are absolutely enormous," Goldschmidt said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

THS asking court to shut shelter for 'rehabilitation'

SHELTER The Toronto Humane Society is hoping an Ontario court will grant it permission to close its doors and start over.

The embattled animal shelter, which has been run by the Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals since November, wants to "rebuild from the ground up, and regain the public confidence in the organization," according to a recently filed affidavit by executive director Garth Jerome.

The short-term plan involves taking control of the shelter from the OSPCA, temporarily shutting it down, emptying out its cages and implementing new policies and procedures within the shelter as a way to "rehabilitate" it.

The THS proposes emptying the shelter through adoption, fostering, transfers to rescue groups and euthanasia in cases recommended by its vets.

Proposal

- The proposal, which was approved by the current board of directors, experts and veterinarians, would include cleaning out the shelter, a retraining program and the implementation of a new computer system.

But the OSPCA says the plan is not in the best interest of the some 250 animals housed in the shelter.

"The Toronto Humane Society needs to start focusing on animal care," said OSPCA lawyer Brian Shiller. "And closing the facility means having no animals to care for."

Ontario Supreme Court Justice David Brown will consider the proposal next week, when hearings begin Tuesday on an application by the OSPCA and THS members to have the charity's board of directors removed. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Eaton Centre **The softer side of Joannie**

JOHN R. KENNEDY/FOR METRO TORONTO

Canadian figure skater Joannie Rochette, who won bronze at the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver, greets hundreds of fans at the Sears store at Yonge and Dundas streets yesterday afternoon. The 24-year-old will be part of the Stars On Ice tour, which stops at the ACC April 30.

Guergis not aware of assistant's letters to newspapers

POLITICS Embattled junior Conservative cabinet minister Helena Guergis says she had no idea her office assistant has been sending pro-Guergis letters to local newspapers posing as a regular voter.

Guergis says her riding assistant has agreed the letter campaign was inappropriate and has apologized.

Helena Guergis

The assistant used her married name, rather than the maiden name she uses in her professional life, to send letters defending Guergis to newspapers in her Simcoe-Grey riding northwest of Toronto — without any hint that they came from a Guergis employee.

Liberal MP Wayne Easter notes that all cabinet members have a media clipping service that details every newspaper reference, so it is simply "unfathomable" that Guergis or her department didn't know about the letters.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

RAIL TRAFFIC A CN Rail freight derailment just east of Toronto disrupted rail traffic but caused no injuries. Spokesman Mark Hallman said three locomotives being hauled by the train as well as nine freight cars left the tracks near a GO Transit station in Pickering. Hallman said one of the cars was carrying methylene, but none leaked. However, some diesel fuel leaked from a locomotive.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Saputo shuts Brampton dairy plant, will relocate 120 workers

FOODS Saputo Inc., Canada's biggest cheesemaker, announced yesterday it will close a milk and cream processing plant in Ontario and consolidate distribution in the Toronto area as it continues a streamlining of its operations.

The Montreal-based cheesemaker said it will have 25 plants in Canada after the Oct. 31 closure of the facility in Brampton.

"The way we can improve is really through synergies." Karine Vachon, Saputo spokeswoman

"We arrived at the conclusion that closing our Brampton facility and integrating the production into our other facilities was the best solution, the optimal solution to improve our efficiency," said company spokeswoman Karine Vachon.

"The way we can improve is really through synergies, efficiency and finding ways to optimize our operations," Vachon said.

Saputo also said it will consolidate all the distribution in the Greater Toronto Area into one warehouse in Vaughan.

About 190 employees will be affected by the closure of the Brampton plant, which processes milk and cream products. But about two-thirds of them — 120 people — will get a chance to relocate within the company's dairy products division.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Company fined after worker injured

A court in Blenheim, Ont., has fined Martinrea Fabco Metallic Canada $75,000 after a worker was injured. The worker was repairing a die used for stamping car parts in June 2008 when it shifted on some plastic blocks. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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An auction from the final frontier

Toronto space collection on the block

If you're in the market for an anti-gravity toilet, look no further.

Forty artifacts from the Soviet/Russian space program — including several spacesuits, a scorched heat shield, and a "human waste disposal unit" — are bound for the auction block today.

The unusual pieces are already drawing considerable interest from collectors around the world, says Sean Quinn, an evaluator at the Toronto-based Waddington's auction house, where bids will be accepted online and by phone as well as in-person.

"We've had an amazing response, we're very excited about the potential for the auction," Quinn said yesterday as curious history buffs stopped by an advance viewing.

"This is a pretty significant collection in that we have so many actual pieces of space ships. A lot of space auctions tend to have a lot of autographs and stamps and that sort of thing but we have a lot of actual artifacts from the Soyuz spaceships and many of those have actually flown, which is important, too."

A dingy white space suit worn by Cosmonaut Anatoli Pavlovich Artsebarsky is expected to draw between $25,000 and $35,000.

"A similar spacesuit sold in France last year for $87,000 euros and another sold in Texas last year for about $31,000 US," Quinn notes.

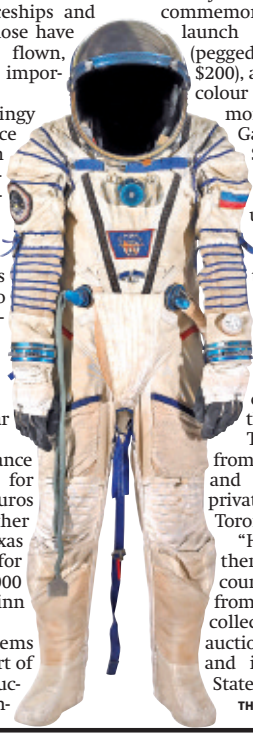
Other items for sale, part of a larger auction of 20th-century design, include a commemorative rocket launch start key (pegged at $100 to $200), an autographed colour photo of Cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin ($350 to $450) and the anti-gravity toilet, configured for the male cosmonaut ($6,000 to $8,000).

"The collector assured me it was not used," Quinn says while chuckling over the device.

The items date from 1945 to 2005 and came from a private collector in Toronto.

"He purchased them over the course of 25 years from other private collectors and at auctions in Europe and in the United States."

THE CANADIAN PRESS



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Lockdown ends at prison

A two-day lockdown at Warkworth Institution, a medium-security prison east of Peterborough that started after weapons were discovered inside has ended. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada

Queen to skip Nova Scotia Tattoo

Buckingham Palace is standing by its decision that the Queen won't be attending the Royal Nova Scotia International Tattoo, despite a last-ditch public appeal by organizers. A public spat emerged recently when the organizers said the Queen wouldn't be coming to the military show because they didn't approve a plan by her advisers to have her climb a series of steep risers. The British press jumped on the story and one newspaper described the dispute as "a row over a staircase." THE CANADIAN PRESS

January GDP expected to be strong

ECONOMY Key new output numbers being released today are expected to confirm what markets, economists and policy-makers hope for and many already suspect — that Canada's economy has left the recession behind and is now firing on all cylinders.

The consensus is for a 0.5 per cent advance in gross domestic product in January after an outsized 0.6 per cent gain in December.

That doesn't sound like much, but on an annual basis it would suggest the economy is racing ahead at a six per cent clip, a classic V-shaped recovery that no one thought possible a year ago.

"It's looking more impressive every day." Economist Doug Porter on the recovery

Such an outcome would likely add more pressure on the Bank of Canada to raise interest rates.

Bank of Montreal economist Douglas Porter points to a staggering number of indicators, all of which have baffled analysts with their strength in the past few weeks. These include housing starts and sales, consumer spending, rising stock markets and finally the employment picture, which saw the addition of 60,000 full-time jobs in February alone.

"It's looking more and more V-shaped all the time," said Porter. "It's looking more impressive every day." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Clinton doesn't mince words

Remarks on Arctic, Afghanistan, abortion surprise Tories

She heated up Arctic politics, did some public arm-twisting on Afghanistan, and had blunt words on abortion.

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's two days of summitry in Canada came and went like a hurricane, leaving the Harper government to pick up the pieces.

G8 foreign ministers wrapped up their meeting yesterday and at the closing news conference, Clinton was asked about Canada's signature G8 initiative on child and maternal health care in the Third Word. The Conservatives have come under heavy criticism for refusing to say if the plan would fund family planning programs that might include abortion.

Clinton said: "You cannot have maternal health without reproductive health. And reproductive health includes contraception and family planning and access to legal, safe abortion.

"It is perfectly legitimate for people to hold their own personal views based on conscience, religion or any other basis. But I've always believed the government should not intervene in decisions of such intimacy."

Clinton arrived in Canada Monday and departed early from a meeting of the five Arctic coastal states after saying she objected to the exclusion of aboriginal groups and three other northern nations. That left Cannon alone at the podium for what was supposed to be a joint press conference of fellow Arctic ministers.

She then forced the issue of Canada's planned 2011 withdrawal from Afghanistan into the spotlight by telling a national TV audience that the U.S. would like Canadian troops to extend their stay in the war-torn country.

Tories were less than amused.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper made it crystal clear to Clinton during a meeting yesterday that Canada's military mission will end as scheduled next year, even as G8 foreign ministers affirmed their desire to stay the course in Afghanistan. THE CANADIAN PRESS

ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Foreign Affairs Minister Lawrence Cannon, centre, jokes with U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, France's Foreign and European Affairs Minister Bernard Kouchner, Russia's Foreign Affairs Minister Sergey Viktorovich Lavrov and Germany's Foreign Affairs Minister Guido Westerwelle, left to right, during a family picture yesterday at the G8 foreign ministers meeting in Gatineau, Que.

Border initiative

- The ministers agreed to begin an Afghanistan Pakistan Border Region Prosperity Initiative "aimed at building trade and border infrastructure to foster economic development and local employment."

Students tried to warn school about bus driver

CALGARY A student says several children tried to warn a private school about the bus driver who would be involved in a crash that killed a nine-year-old girl.

Kathelynn Occena died in October 2007 when a bus driven by Louise Rogers sideswiped a parked gravel truck on a Calgary freeway and smashed in a light pole. Rogers pleaded guilty to careless driving and was fined $2,300.

Louise Rogers

Caitlin Emard, who is now 16, says she told a teacher and a counsellor at the Third Academy that Rogers was on the cellphone all the time. She also told them Rogers drove erratically.

"She swerved a lot," Emard testified yesterday at a fatality inquiry. "We were basically weaving quite a bit. Students were constantly yelling at her to pay attention to the road."

She said the teacher replied there needed to be a formal meeting with the principal since more than one student was concerned, but when the young people tried to schedule one, they were turned down. THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

TIRADE Police say an error on a tax return may have prompted an angry fit at the office of a Vancouver business that caused $10,000 in damage. Vancouver police say a man entered the office of a tax preparation business Sunday and confronted staff about an error on a previous income tax return. The return had been completed at a different office. Police say the man began to scream, and then destroyed furniture, threw computers and tried to smash a window.

MANHUNT A fugitive from Georgia who was on an alleged quest to buy a five-year-old boy over the Internet was to find out today whether he would be set free or remain in a Canadian jail. A global manhunt for Patrick Molesti, 56, ended Friday night in Thunder Bay. Georgia police said they believed Molesti, a French national, likely fled to Canada because he thought he could get to France more easily from Quebec. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada must promote learning or fail economically, council warns

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B.C. residents told to be wary of measles

The B.C. Centre for Disease Control is warning the public to be alert after a measles outbreak in Metro Vancouver. The centre says there have been 10 confirmed and four suspected cases of measles in the Lower Mainland in the past two weeks. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Reactor repair costly

Fixing Chalk River running at $11M a month: AECL boss

The tab for fixing the isotope-making reactor at Chalk River, Ont., is running at $11 million a month, including the cost of the repairs themselves and lost revenues.

That's on top of $72 million earmarked for the work in the 2009-10 fiscal year.

Hugh MacDiarmid, president of Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd., says the repair is a complicated job of a kind never done before.

It has caused delays and forced the company and its technicians to design one-of-a-kind tools and procedures, he told a House of Commons committee yesterday.

Hugh MacDiarmid

The Rube Goldberg improvisations have worked like a charm so far, he said, but it's a slow, painstaking process.

Technicians are essentially using remote control to weld patches on a spot three storeys below them, which they can't actually see or touch.

The basic problem is corrosion in the thick, aluminum walls of the 50-year-old NRU reactor. It sprang a leak last May and was shut down. Careful inspection with custom-designed TV scanners found eight more trouble spots, where the metal walls of the reactor vessel had corroded sharply.

The decision to patch the leak and reinforce the thin spots began an unprecedented process, MacDiarmid said.

"What we're doing has never been done in the history of the nuclear industry," he said. "We have invented our own tools."

The problem areas are deep down in the reactor vessel, in a radiation field that precludes direct human involvement.

The access ports are little bigger than a baseball. The solution to getting a welding torch inside is a long pole with an arm that holds the welding head and which can extend once it's through the narrow access. THE CANADIAN PRESS

New immigration bill targets fraud, delays

BILL The government has tabled a bill it hopes will deter refugee fraudsters from mooching off Canada's economy and social services, but will also inform legitimate refugees of their legal status more quickly.

Immigration Minister Jason Kenney hopes the new refugee system will be up and running in a year.

Expedited appeals

- The bill proposes a formal appeals body that would replace numerous quasi-appeals that drag out the current process. Appeals would be handled by political appointees at the Immigration and Refugee Board.

Officials said the reforms will cost $540.7 million over five years to implement. It will require another $85.4 million a year to keep the new system running.

Currently, claimants wait an average of 19 months for a full hearing. That will drop to just 60 days under the new system, Kenney said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quebec **Explosive homecoming**

RYAN REMIORZ/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Vancouver 2010 Winter Olympic gold medallist in freestyle skiing Alex Bilodeau arrives yesterday for ceremonies in his honour in his home town of Rosemere, Que.

News in brief

CONSTITUTION A lawyer for Mohamed Harkat says the security-certificate case against the terror suspect violates his client's constitutional rights. Norm Boxall told the Federal Court of Canada yesterday that federal lawyers have disclosed insufficient details of the accusations. The Canadian Security Intelligence Service alleges Harkat, arrested in December 2002, is an al-Qaida sleeper agent with ties to several Islamic extremists. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Warrant issued for teen after stabbing

A Canada-wide warrant has been issued for Matthew Powell, 16, who is wanted in the stabbing death of a man in Kitchener. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tax burden growing

Quebec budget introduces fee, tax increases

Quebecers are being forced to shoulder an even bigger tax burden and a wider range of fee hikes as part of the provincial government's desperate push to get its spending under control.

In its 2010-11 budget tabled yesterday, Quebec slapped its already tax-weary residents with hikes in the provincial sales tax, fuel tax and tuition fees while also introducing new health-care fees.

Quebec will have the highest sales tax, which will jump to 9.5 per cent in 2012 following a previously announced jump of one percentage point set for January 2011. That doesn't include the federal GST of five per cent.

Finance Minister Raymond Bachand hopes the added revenue will allow Quebec to balance its budget by 2013-14.

"We ran deficits out of necessity," Bachand said in his budget speech. "We're going to eliminate them out of duty."

The budget, with its scramble to raise revenues across a range of areas, aims to head off a fiscal crisis over the province's mounting gross debt, expected to reach $160.1 billion by the end of the month.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

JACQUES BOISSINOT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sophie Dupont, of Quebec City, holds a pair of pants she brought in front of the legislature grounds yesterday in support of a radio station stunt on the day of the budget in Quebec City. People were asked to honk their horn and walk around with their pants pockets sticking out in protest of the government's method of spending their money.

CTA rules against WestJet compensation limit

RULING WestJet could be forced to pay more for lost or damaged luggage following a ruling by the Canadian Transportation Agency (CTA) in a complaint over the $250 limit the airline places on compensation.

The agency received a complaint from University of Manitoba mathematics Prof. Gabor Lukacs, who has become something of a crusader for airline passenger rights.

In its preliminary ruling, the federal agency said the $250 WestJet cap is unreasonable.

The ruling notes that WestJet's need for such a limit does not "outweigh the interests of Mr. Lukacs and other consumers."

Lukacs said he is not convinced that the preliminary ruling will be the end of the matter, noting that WestJet has 20 days to respond.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Thai protesters reject talks, plan new demonstrations

Thai protesters demanding new elections said yesterday they would not return to negotiations with the government and would instead resume massive street demonstrations. But the prime minister, who was travelling abroad, said the talks would continue. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World

Putin vows vengeance for attacks

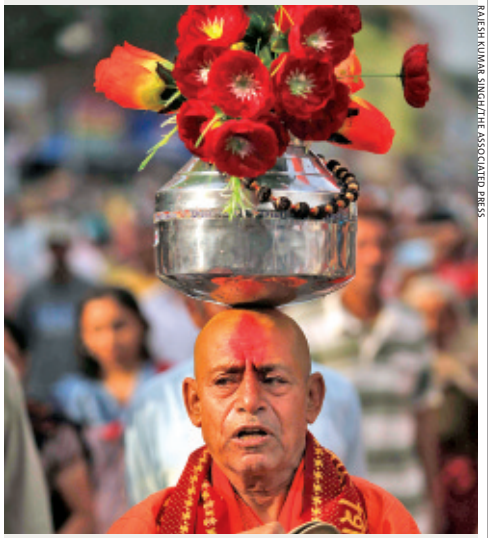
Vladimir Putin vowed yesterday to "drag out of the sewer" the masterminds of the twin suicide bombing of the Moscow subway system that killed 39 people and left scores wounded. The prime minister spoke as Russia mourned the dead from Monday's attacks; teary passengers lit candles and left carnations at both of the central stations that were hit. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

MICHIGAN Members of a rural Christian militia who believed a battle with the Antichrist was coming were plotting to attack police officers in hopes of fomenting a violent uprising against the government, U.S. federal prosecutors have alleged. Seven men and one woman believed to be part of the group called Hutaree were arrested over the weekend after raids in Michigan, Indiana and Ohio. A ninth suspect was arrested Monday night.

RAINS Rhode Island Gov. Don Carcieri asked residents to go home early yesterday to avoid what he says is the worst flooding to hit the state in more than 100 years. Carcieri said Interstate 95 would possibly have to be closed because of high water, which is expected to rise until at least today. The U.S. National Weather Service says Boston in neighbouring Massachusetts has shattered an all-time rainfall record for the month of March with nearly 13 inches. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

India **Kumbh Mela festival**



RAJESH KUMAR SINGH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

An Hindu holy man balances a pot on his head as he walks singing on the banks of River Ganges during the Kumbh Mela festival in Haridwar, India, yesterday.

Babies bodies found dumped in China river

The bodies of 21 babies, some with hospital identification tags around their tiny ankles, washed ashore on a river in eastern China and two mortuary workers were detained for allegedly dumping them.

News footage yesterday showed the babies — at least one of whom was stuffed in a yellow plastic bag marked "medical waste" — strewn along a dirt riverbank near a highway overpass. A few wore diapers. Some of the babies appeared several months old, while the official Xinhua News Agency said the bodies included fetuses.

Local residents and firefighters recovered the bodies Monday after they were discovered under a bridge spanning the Guangfu River on the outskirts of Jining in Shandong province.

Hospital ID tags on eight of the babies helped investigators trace them back to the Affiliated Hospital of Jining Medical University, Xinhua reported. Hospital mortuary workers Zhu Zhenyu and Wang Zhijun were fired and taken away by police.

The babies' families had paid the pair to dispose of the bodies, but they instead dumped them at the river.

Three top hospital officials were fired or suspended and the government ordered the Jining Municipal Health Bureau to make a public apology, Xinhua said. "It exposes a serious loophole in the hospital's management and indicates a lack of ethics and legal awareness of some hospital staff," Jining city government spokesman Gong Zhenhua said. "It exerts a very negative impact on society and teaches us a profound lesson." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Consultant says school didn't heed anti-bullying advice before student killed self

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Search to continue for Air France debris

Two ships have set sail from Brazil to continue hunting for debris from the Air France jet that crashed in the Atlantic last year, killing 228 people. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

world 15

Taliban driven out

Villagers eject militants before Canadian troops arrive

It was billed as a sweep of the last major Taliban stronghold southwest of Kandahar, but for a combined force of 1,000 Afghan and Canadian troops, it was more like chasing ghosts.

The soldiers arrived in this eastern Panjwaii district only to be told by local villagers that insurgents had already been chased away.

Troops conducted clearing operations over six days during the last week under a media blackout in a pair of villages nestled at the edge of the imposing Registan Desert. But there wasn't much to clear.

Elders in Nakoney and nearby Adamzai — both villages long recognized as transit points for the Taliban — insisted they had ejected the militants, telling them they were no longer welcome.

Afghan and Canadian commanders wasted little time taking credit, of which they described as proof NATO's new counter-insurgency strategy is working.

MURRAY BREWSTER/THE CANADIAN PRESS

An Afghan soldier talks with children earlier this week in the village of Khenjakak. A force of 1,000 Canadian and Afghan troops conducted a six-day operation only to find villagers had already ejected the Taliban from the area.

It was just last fall when Canadian and Afghan troops fought their way into Nakoney, a village the mere mention of which makes battle-hardened Canadian soldiers cringe.

Aid and reconstruction has flowed into the village in the intervening months, which has locals sitting up and taking notice, Lt.-Col. Jerry Walsh said.

"The word is spreading amongst the Afghan people that they can have peace in their villages and they are taking it upon themselves to tell the insurgents: You are not welcome here," he said Monday.

Only two suspected insurgents were captured during four days of ground searches by soldiers, who were air-dropped in two days after a squadron of tanks took up position. Surprisingly, no weapons caches — usual hallmarks of insurgent retreats — were discovered, suggesting that the insurgents may indeed have been driven out.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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UN report on Bhutto assassination delayed

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon will delay the release of a report on the assassination of former Pakistani prime minister Benazir Bhutto until April 15 after Pakistan requested the delay to question two heads of state who had supposedly warned Bhutto of "serious threats to her life." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Serbia passes declaration condemning '95 massacre

BELGRADE Serbia's lawmakers narrowly approved a declaration condemning the 1995 Serb massacre of 8,000 Muslims in Srebrenica, in a bid to distance the country from past warmongering under the late Slobodan Milosevic.

The declaration that offers sympathy and apology to the victims was passed with a slim majority of 127 votes in the 250-seat parliament, after a daylong debate yesterday that underscored divisions in the country over Serbia's role in the 1990s' conflict.

"The National Assembly of Serbia harshly condemns the crime committed against the Bosniak residents of Srebrenica in July 1995 ... expressing condolences and apology to the victims' families because not all was done to prevent this tragedy," says the declaration, put forward by the ruling pro-Western coalition. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Objections

- Nationalist lawmakers rejected the Srebrenica declaration as "shameful" and "unjust." They insisted fewer people were killed in Srebrenica and denied Western accusations of mass executions.

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Hopes dim for China miners

Frustration mounted at a flooded mine in northern China as anguished relatives of 153 workers trapped underground briefly turned violent yesterday amid revelations that warning signs of the flood went unheeded.

A miner said workers had warned of water leaks in the underground shafts as early as last Thursday — but were ignored. Officials have yet to declare the cause of the accident, but experts said it was likely that miners broke into the old shafts of derelict mines that had filled with water.

Even as 1,000 rescue workers at the Wangjialing mine in Shanxi province were tunneling and laying pipes to drain away water, hopes dimmed as rescue efforts reached a third day with no communication with those trapped.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Relatives of mine workers mourn at the Wangjialing coal mine in Xiangning township yesterday.

About 50 miners' relatives surged onto the office grounds and as the shouting grew louder, one man picked up a shovel and smashed a window.

The anxiety of the families and co-workers of the miners was worsened by what they felt was the unresponsiveness of those in charge of the mine's operations and rescue efforts. Their anger reflects the distrust of many Chinese toward officials seen as corrupt and indifferent. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

CALIFORNIA Anti-war protesters heckled former White House political adviser Karl Rove off the stage at his book signing in Beverly Hills. Code Pink co-founder Jodie Evans walked toward Rove with handcuffs, calling him a war criminal and saying she was making a citizen's arrest.

CYPRUS A deal to reunify the divided island remains within reach as negotiations break for a Turkish Cypriot leadership election next month, Cyprus' rival leaders said yesterday. President Dimitris Christofias and Turkish Cypriot leader Mehmet Ali Talat said they were encouraged by progress made on power-sharing, economic and EU matters during UN-facilitated talks. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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A Florida sheriff's deputy used Google Earth to track down and arrest a man on charges of illegally dumping a boat THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Big Bang breakthrough

Scientists celebrate high-force proton collision

The world's largest atom smasher conducted its first experiments yesterday at conditions nearing those after the Big Bang, breaking its own record for high-energy collisions with proton beams crashing into each other at three times more force than ever before.

In a milestone for the $10-billion Large Hadron Collider's ambitious bid to reveal details about theoretical particles and microforces, scientists at the European Organization for Nuclear Research, or CERN, took high-tech photographs so they could study the disintegrating protons after they collided at a combined energy level of 7 trillion electron volts.

The collisions herald a new era for researchers working on the machine in a 27-kilometre tunnel below the Swiss-French border at Geneva.

"That's it! They've had a collision," said Oliver Buchmueller from Imperial College in London as people closely watched monitors.

ANJA NIEDRINGHAUS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A scientist with the European Organization for Nuclear Research celebrates yesterday after the Large Hadron Collider successfully directed two proton beams into each other at record-setting force.

Scientists erupted with applause when the first successful collisions were confirmed. Their colleagues from around the world were tuning in by remote links to witness the new record, which surpasses the 2.36 TeV CERN recorded last year.

Dubbed the world's largest scientific experiment, researchers hope the machine can approach on a tiny scale what happened in the first split seconds after the Big Bang, which they theorize was the creation of the universe some 14 billion years ago.

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Comment

Quebec's veiled discrimination

TheWestView

If you ask me, too many people wake up in the morning with the following first thought: Let's ban something.

Jean Charest, the premier of Quebec, woke up recently and decided to ban the niqab and the burqa, the veils favoured by a few ultra-orthodox Muslim women that cover everything but their eyes.

I'm not going to waste your time arguing about pros and cons of the burqa and the niqab.

But I do not want to live in a country that allows one of its provinces to ban religious or secular adornments. If Charest can ban the burqa, he can also ban, in no particular order: Honking big crucifixes; Mohawk haircuts; turbans; phylacteries; plaid golf pants; and Speedos for all men more than 150 pounds.

Have you ever come across a squadron of middle-aged weekend bicycle warriors decked out in lemon-lime lycra? Shouldn't they be banned, too? How about really bad toupees? Take them down!

We're not talking about an epidemic here. According to one estimate, there are about 25 offenders altogether in Quebec. There are probably more people wearing leashes and dog collars who like to be escorted around town on all fours by their favourite dominatrix.

It looks as if I'm in the minority here. According to Angus Reid, 95 per cent of the Blocheads Québécois are in favour of the ban, naturally, although it's OK for them to smoke Gauloises and end up with COPD and become wards of the medical system.

Perhaps more surprising, 80 per cent of the Rest of Canada also supports the ban, so by picking on a few Muslim women, Charest has unified the nation. Way to go, Jean.

It's time to give our heads a shake. This is the land of freedom. Thousands have fought and died for our right to remain free. It's the basis of our democracy. If some people are a little different, we can tolerate that. It's called diversity, and in this nasty, censorious world it's the hope of the future. Even in what seem to be inappropriate expressions of the past.

Paul Sullivan is a Vancouver-based journalist and owner of Sullivan Media Consulting; vancouverletters@metronews.ca.

Word on the street: What's the first sure sign of spring for you?

James Olsson
Toronto
A: To me, it's obviously the green. It's Toronto, so it's the first thing you notice for sure, for me anyway.

Jazmine Carr
Toronto
A: Chillin' weather and hot boys on the street. That's when you know it's warm 'cause you see a lot of hot guys.

Rahim Thawer
Toronto
A: Lots of gay men on the (Church Street) O'Grady's patio! Put an exclamation mark on the end of that.

Dani Paulson
Ottawa
A: Legs. Definitely love me some legs in the spring.

Bruce Beveridge
Halifax
A: When the roads are clean and I can drive my motorcycle.

Sarah Balderson
Edmonton
A: The first sign of spring, I think, is the flowers blooming and the trees, and the green grass. Just the nature part of it.

MICHAEL DEADDER

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Xerox chairman Anne Mulcahy retiring after turning company around

Xerox Corp. said yesterday that chairman Anne Mulcahy, 57, who is credited with turning the company around over the past decade, plans to retire in May. Mulcahy's heir apparent, CEO Ursula M. Burns, is the first African American woman to lead a Fortune 500 company. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Business

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EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Business in brief

BANKING CIBC will look for domestic growth in the near term, rather than looking outside Canada for expansion, the bank's chief executive, Gerald McCaughey, told a banking conference in Montreal yesterday. CIBC was the Canadian bank hit hardest by the credit crunch in 2008 in the U.S., and was hit hard early in the decade when the tech bubble burst and Enron and Worldcom collapsed.

PIPELINE PetroWorth Resources Inc., a junior energy company, says it has signed a letter of intent with Enbridge Gas New Brunswick Inc. on a proposed 22-kilometre pipeline from PetroWorth's Rosevale Lease natural gas field to Enbridge's gas distribution system, which serves Moncton. The announcement comes in the wake of U.S.-based Southwestern Energy Co.'s commitment to spend $47 million on oil and gas exploration in New Brunswick. THE CANADIAN PRESS

China Hamburger University opens

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTO

Tim Fenton, left, McDonald's president for Asia, Pacific, Middle East and Africa, launches the McDonald's Hamburger University with school officers yesterday in Shanghai, China. It will train new generations of managers as foreign companies step up efforts to develop and keep Chinese talent. China is McDonald's fastest-growing global market as the country's $300-billion-a-year "informal eating out" market expands at an annual rate of 10 per cent, said Fenton.

Last call for buck-a-beer brewery

Labatt Breweries announced plans to close its Lakeport Brewery facilities in Hamilton and lay off 143 workers to help keep it competitive.

The company said yesterday that all production of Lakeport beer will be shifted to Labatt's operations in London, Ont., effective April 30, but the availability of Lakeport products in stores will not be affected.

The decision comes as Labatt tries to boost its operating efficiency for the discount beer brand as other beer giants slash prices.

However, the brewery's closure also delivers another blow to the labour market in Hamilton, which has seen massive layoffs in some of its key industries.

Lakeport was acquired by Labatt in 2007 as part of a $201.4-million takeover of the popular brand, which helped coin the phrase "buck-a-beer" because of its low price.

As the economic downturn played out, beer sales across the country tumbled, affecting all of the major brands. In 2009, domestic beer sales tumbled 2.8 per cent over the previous year, according to the Brewers Association of Canada. Sales fell even further in Ontario, slipping five per cent on the year. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Other layoffs

- Hamilton has felt the squeeze in recent weeks after Siemens announced plans to lay off 550 workers over the next 18 months as it shutters a facility there.
- Local steel plants, like Stelco, have faced massive job cuts over the past few years.

Apple shares hit all-time high after iPhone-on-Verizon talk

SMARTPHONE Apple Inc. shares have hit another all-time high now that it appears the iPhone could find a new sales outlet through Verizon Wireless.

The Wall Street Journal reported that Apple plans to release an iPhone this year that would work on the network technology used by Verizon Wireless. Currently, the phone is available only to subscribers of AT&T Inc.

Apple shares rose as high as $237.48 US yesterday before retreating to $235.30, up 1.3 per cent on the day. Apple has jumped about 13 per cent this month. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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$26M contract awarded for bridge in NWT
Quebec-based Structal-Bridges and Western Canadian bridge manufacturer Rapid-Span Structures Ltd. have been awarded a $26-million joint venture contract to fabricate the steel structure of the Deh Cho Bridge being built in Fort Providence in the Northwest Territories. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Honda adding 400 jobs at Alliston plant

Honda Canada says it will start up a second shift and add 400 jobs at its No. 2 assembly plant in Ontario early next year, the second major automaker in a week to announce plans for revving up production.

The plant in Alliston produces the Civic sedan, Acura MDX SUV and Acura ZDX crossover. Honda also makes the Civic coupe and sedan, as well as the Canadian-exclusive Acura CSX luxury compact sedan, at its No. 1 assembly plant and produces engines at a parts plant in Alliston.

There are several signs that Ontario's battered auto sector is coming back to life following a disastrous year. General Motors of Canada announced last week that it will recall more than 700 laid-off employees at two of its Ontario plants.

Scotiabank economist Carlos Gomes, who tracks the auto sector, said Honda's announcement is consistent with what he's been seeing in the industry.

"I think it reflects the fact that demand is picking up. It's picking up globally, it's picking up here in North America as well," Gomes said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Japan **Factories hit brakes**

SHIZUO KAMBAYASHI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The electronic stock price indicator in Tokyo reflects the market mood yesterday after cautious Japanese companies laid off more workers and hit the brakes on production in February, sending factory output down for the first time in a year. Industrial production in the world's second-biggest economy retreated 0.9 per cent from January, following 11 consecutive months of gains, the government said yesterday.

Global vehicle sales surge but Canadian exports sag

AUTOS A report from Scotia Economics says auto sales around the world are continuing their strong recovery, but says Canada's exports aren't doing as well.

It says global auto sales in February surged 26 per cent compared to year-ago levels, marking the fifth consecutive month of double-digit gains.

Senior economist Carlos Gomes says North American auto production will ramp up to 11.5 million units in the second quarter, half a million units higher than production levels in the past six months.

But Gomes warns Canadian exports are being hurt by the industry's current focus on domestic markets, as well as the strength of the Canadian dollar compared with the U.S. currency. He says exports to the U.S. slumped 32 per cent last month, while Canadian auto parts claimed only 6.7 per cent of the U.S. market.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Business in brief

HOUSING The Conference Board of Canada says in its report, Building from the Ground Up, that many Canadians can only keep a roof over their heads by cutting costs in ways that could harm their health — such as buying less nutritious food. It says about 75 per cent of Canadians are currently living in homes they can afford and a further five per cent have their housing costs subsidized by the government. That leaves 20 per cent of Canadians struggling to keep up with the cost of their homes.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Sports

Metropolit done for season

Centre Glen Metropolit, left, will miss at least the rest of the regular season with a shoulder injury, the Montreal Canadiens announced yesterday. Metropolit was injured during a 4-2 loss to the New Jersey Devils Saturday night. He is to undergo further tests this week to determine the full extent of the injury, coach Jacques Martin said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

EDITOR: DON.MCHOULL@METRONEWS.CA

Sports in brief

JAYS The Toronto Blue Jays pared their active roster down to 29 players by optioning pitchers Jesse Carlson and David Purcey to triple-A Las Vegas, and assigning outfielder Jeremy Reed to minor-league camp.

SOCCER Bayern Munich showed Manchester United what it's like to lose a crucial Champions League match in injury time with a 2-1 victory yesterday, while Lyon beat Bordeaux 3-1 in another quarter-final match. United can still advance to the semifinals for a fourth straight year with as little as a 1-0 win.

TRADE The Florida Marlins acquired left-hander Nate Robertson from the Detroit Tigers for left-hander Jay Voss yesterday. The trade enables Robertson to start with the Marlins and assures left-hander Dontrelle Willis a spot in the Detroit rotation.

TRACK Caster Semenya says she will return to competitive racing this season, releasing a statement on the same day she was denied a chance to run at a meet in South Africa because the results from her gender verification tests have not yet been released. The 19-year-old Semenya, who has not raced or spoken publicly since she won the women's 800-metre race at the world championships in Berlin in August, said yesterday that she has not done anything wrong and should be allowed to race.

NFL Pittsburgh Steelers receiver Santonio Holmes denies hurting a woman who says he threw a glass at her in an Orlando nightclub and claims another woman hit her with the cup, according to a police report released yesterday. Holmes told an Orlando Police Department officer the alleged victim, Anshonae Mills, grabbed his wrist, got in his face and called him a racial name after he asked for his seat back. METRO NEWS SERVICES

METRO HOCKEY POOL STANDINGS*

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NAME	LOCATION	GP	G	A	PTS
1. Brian B	AB, CA	1043	434	611	1045
2. Jonathon Gremsperger	BC, CA	1045	443	600	1043
3. Stephanie Warren	NS, CA	1015	420	609	1029
4. Shawn Tschritter	AB, CA	1034	419	600	1019
5. Christian Gagnon	NB, CA	982	402	615	1017
6. Dennis MacDougall	NS, CA	1009	407	604	1011
7. Cole Warren	NS, CA	1029	376	631	1007
7. Kyle Turk	NS, CA	1040	424	583	1007
9. Blaine Schlechter	AB, CA	1002	402	603	1005
10. Bernie Horton	ON, CA	968	415	585	1000
11. Myles Dennis	NS, CA	993	381	617	998
12. Calvin Lewis	NS, CA	1034	407	590	997
13. Steve Ferguson	ON, CA	1020	402	593	995
14. Grant Greenfield	AB, CA	1000	438	554	992
15. Sarah Jackson	ON, CA	984	371	619	990

*Results exclude Quebec

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Thrashers Nik Leafs

Former Toronto forward nets eventual winner

NHL RESULTS

Thrashers 3 Leafs 2

Nik Antropov picked the perfect time to get his first career goal against his former team, scoring the winner last night in Atlanta's 3-2 victory over the Toronto Maple Leafs to keep the Thrashers' playoff hopes alive.

The big Kazakhstani forward tipped a shot past Jonas Gustavsson at 4:44 of the third period — putting Atlanta back ahead just 57 seconds after Viktor Stalberg had tied the game.

Atlanta remained two points behind Boston for the final playoff spot in the Eastern Conference after the Bruins beat New Jersey 1-0 in overtime.

Antropov played his first nine seasons with the Maple Leafs and hadn't recorded a point in three games against his former team. He finished with a goal and an assist yesterday.

Maxim Afinogenov and Evgeny Artyukhin also scored for Atlanta (33-31-12).

Viktor Stalberg had both goals for the Maple Leafs (28-35-13).

With the Thrashers playing for the second time in as many nights, there was very little sense of urgency in the first period. Both teams were sloppy with passes and failed to create many quality scoring chances.

However, Atlanta got the break it needed early in the second period after Leafs defenceman Francois Beauchemin failed to clear the puck from the defensive zone. Afinogenov was able to wheel around untouched and beat Gustavsson with a wrist shot at 6:18. THE CANADIAN PRESS

FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Atlanta Thrashers goaltender Ondrej Pavelec makes a save as he is screened by Toronto Maple Leaf Colton Orr last night.

Irwin scratched

- Brayden Irwin was scratched by the Leafs one day after signing with the team. He's expected to make his NHL debut tomorrow or Saturday

Manchester United in talks to play in Toronto

SOCCER English soccer giant Manchester United is poised to play in Toronto this summer.

Talks are underway for the 18-time English league champions to make a four-city tour starting in the latter part of July, after the World Cup. It would see them take on the Major League Soccer all-stars in Houston and play in Toronto, Philadelphia and Boston.

"We're hopeful that we can bring a deal to conclusion," MLS commissioner Don Garber said in Toronto Tuesday after announcing BMO Field will host this year's MLS Cup.

Noting the league has hosted similar visits by soccer titans Real Madrid, FC Barcelona and AC Milan in recent years, Garber said "it would be nice to have Man U part of that program with us for 2010." It would feature the Red Devils being the opposition for the MLS All-Star game in Houston July 29 or Aug. 5.

They would play other games against still-to-be-determined opponents.

TFC would not be the opponent in Toronto.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Coyotes not giving up on Phoenix

NHL Rumours continue to swirl about the Phoenix Coyotes moving to a new city, but inside the dressing room there is a sense of pride over showing hockey doesn't have to melt away in the desert.

The Coyotes, considered a dead team playing in October, are playoff bound after putting together one of the best seasons in the franchise's NHL history. That has brought fans back to the building and renewed interest in the sport.

The more success the team enjoys, the better the odds of the Coyotes staying where they are, said captain Shane Doan.

"As a team, we really want to stay," Doan said yesterday prior to the Coyotes playing the Vancouver Canucks. "The guys have taken a lot of pride in proving that it (hockey) could work in Phoenix and Arizona. We have worked hard trying to keep it there."

Lee Stempniak, acquired from Toronto at the trade deadline, shrugged off the latest rumour about the Coyotes maybe returning to Winnipeg.

"I have paid zero attention to it," said Stempniak, who had 12 goals in his first dozen games since coming to the Coyotes. "I couldn't tell you what the latest rumour is." THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Elam to retire a Bronco

Kicker Jason Elam will sign a one-day contract with the Denver Broncos so he can retire with the team he played with for most of his career. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Turkoglu accepts role

Raptor has no complaints about coming off bench

Like all good sons, Hedo Turkoglu will abide by the wishes of his dad.

As he moves into a new role with the Raptors, a backup for now as the team makes its final push to the NBA playoffs, Turkoglu is done talking about roles and "ball" and his place in the big Toronto picture.

For now, he'll do what they want, and just play.

"My dad told me silence always is a good solution," said Turkoglu, who once again will come off the bench when the Raptors face the Los Angeles Clippers at the Air Canada Centre tonight.

"So, from now on ..."

In no way was the 31-year-old being malicious or petulant or critical as he discussed his demotion from the starting lineup, a blight on an already bad season for the high-priced free agent forward.

He lost his job for a variety of reasons — desultory play, the athleticism of the players behind him, an ill-fated decision to go out on the town after missing a game due to illness — and he's willing to accept what some might see as punishment.

But the overriding impression is that the message delivered emphatically with his benching in Miami Sunday was unequivocally accepted. And not with anger.

"No, I was upset that I couldn't help but I can't be angry," Turkoglu said before he came off the bench to score 11 points in Toronto's much-needed win in Charlotte Monday night.

"I respect all the decisions, and from now on I'm going to. You're upset that you see the situation and you can't help. You can't be mad about it. All you can do is be positive. From now on, I'll try to be positive."

Hedo Turkoglu

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

SCOREBOARD

NBA

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Oklahoma City 111 Philadelphia 93
Indiana 102 Sacramento 95
Phoenix at Chicago
L.A. Clippers at Milwaukee
Washington at Houston

NHL

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Atlanta 3 TORONTO 2
Boston 1 New Jersey 0 (SO)
Columbus 3 Tampa Bay 2
N.Y. Rangers 4 N.Y. Islanders 3
Ottawa 5 Washington 4 (OT)
Edmonton at Detroit
Chicago at St. Louis
Los Angeles at Nashville
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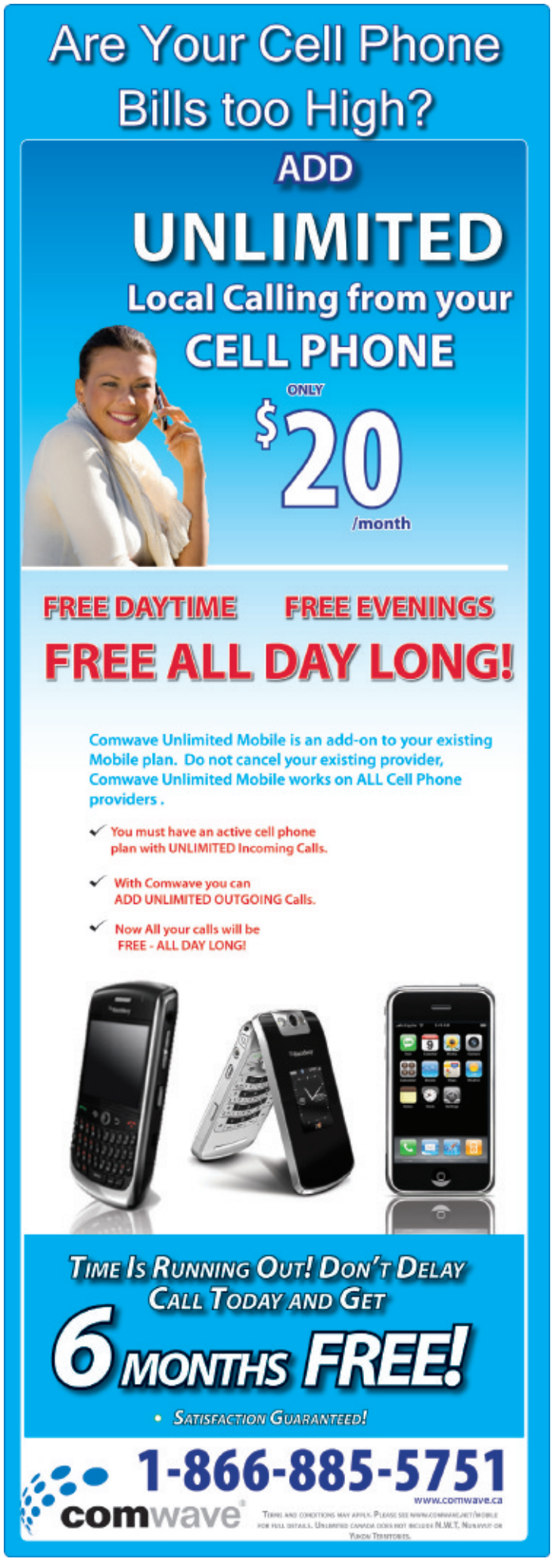


Try a door prize instead

Depending on your wedding budget and the number of guests, it may be difficult to buy wedding favours for everybody. Instead of buying hundreds of cheap wedding favours, why not consider one big wedding favour as a "door prize" at the wedding reception. SOURCE: WEDDING.LIFETIPS.COM

Wedding Planner

Wrap your maids in style

Soft draping skims over the waist. **Red jersey draped dress ($139.95) and red strappy shoes ($119.95)** both available at Le Chateau.

Asymmetrical styling in this one-shoulder dress creates a focal point. **Purple satin one shoulder dress ($79.99)** available at Fairweather, Town Shoes **black satin sling backs ($125),** Le Chateau **clutch ($25).**

Tulip skirt makes the waist seem narrow and looks best on medium to tall women. Marc by Marc Jacobs **strapless dress ($555)** and leather stud **cuff ($275)** both available at Holt Renfrew.

A skirt that sits just above the knee is most flattering and the empire waist style creates the illusion of added inches. BCBG navy and cream **ruffled bodice short dress ($361).**

A gathered bodice is flattering and the fuller cut skirt skims over a fuller waist and hips. **Purple taffeta strapless dress with wrap ($235)** available at Laura Plus, Aldo Collections **silver strappy shoes ($55),** Aldo Accessories **earrings ($35).**

IMAGES COURTESY OF YORKDALE MALL

Financial tips for the newly-hitched

Wedding season is just around the corner. As the blushing bride or the proud groom, you've spent hours planning for the big day.

But, what happens when the wedding bells stop and the wedding bills begin? Here's a short check list to get you started:

A personal finance review: Each partner should share their personal balance sheet to determine total assets and debts. Take this opportunity to plan how debts and income will be split or shared.

Get legal advice: Do you have a will? If not, have one drawn up. If you already have one, is it up to date and do you have a power of attorney? This might be a morbid topic for some people, but clearly defining your final wishes and naming the person who will act on your behalf is a vital.

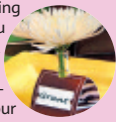
Consult a financial advisor or accountant: Marriage will change your tax situation, so an advisor or accountant can show you how to minimize your potential new tax burden.

Protect what you have: Review your insurance coverage and consider updating your portfolio if you find gaps. NEWSCANADA.COM

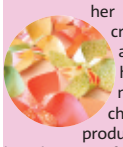
THE WEDDING CO.

A little different

- Place cards are a wonderful way to expand on a theme, express your creativity and, most importantly, indicate where people have been seated. But place cards can also be a little on the ordinary side. For something fresh, consider a Blumebud by Blumebox. A place card and bud vase in one, Blumebuds put the average paper tent to shame. Eight different designs and colours to choose from and double sided printing means you can pick and choose and alternate to your heart's content! Delicate vases and the season's blooms are a beautiful way to place your guests and add to the visual appeal of your tables at the same time.



- Bridesmaids in patterned dresses, bright colours or beautifully mismatched may leave you feeling that a standard bouquet might not be the answer for what to have them carry. Consider parasols, lanterns, stacks of books or ... pinwheels to liven up your stylish do with something unexpected. We love Stoney Creek's Twirlie-Whirlies for a fab, non-traditional impact. Creator Shannon took the plunge and started her online paper creations shop as a stay-at-home mummy, now she's churning out the product and has a hugely successful Etsy shop. If you're bridesmaids and flower-girls carry larger custom pinwheels, why not include the guys and try the minis on their lapels as a fun buttonhole alternative.



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8 DIY wedding day beauty tips

JANINE FALCON
for Metro Toronto

If you're comfortable with makeup, you can absolutely do your own for your wedding day. Look to top red-carpet celebrity looks for inspiration, practice your technique, and take lots of digital snaps to assess results.

1) Get a facial a week before the ceremony. Your makeup will glide on easier.

2) A light foundation primer such as Shu Uemura UV Under Base Mousse ($45, shown) on face and eyelids brightens and helps makeup stay fresh for hours.

3) CoverGirl pro Greg Wencel recommends CoverGirl & Olay Simply Ageless Corrector ($14.99) to counteract really dark circles or pronounced redness on the skin. "Starting with corrector means you'll use less concealer and foundation and still get the coverage you want," he says.

4) "Cameras now show so much detail that what you see is what you get," says Andrea Claire, who has worked with Coco Rocha and Alanis Morissette. For a natural finish on all skin types, Claire likes FACEatelier Ultra Foundation liquid ($45, shown).

5) Keep eye makeup simple with a wash of shadow in a fresh shade and waterproof liner along the base of upper lashes. Smudge a deeper shadow colour over the liner, and dab a shimmery highlight at the inner corners of eyes. Vasanti's The Hamptons eye palette ($40, shown) offers lots of options. Remember to fill sparse brows in with a matches-your-hair shade of Benefit Instant Brow Pencil ($25, shown).

6) Curl lashes and coat with black mascara in either a waterproof or tube-technology formula that stands up to happy tears.

7) Wencel suggests two shades of blush to create shape and a pretty glow. "Sculpt temples, hairline and contour of cheeks with a warm blush, then sweep a more vibrant shade on the top outer curve of the apples of cheeks," he says.

8) Finish with gloss in a luscious rosy or berry hue. Try Bourjois Paris Effet 3D Max gloss in Framboise ($20, shown).

Trinity Western gets artistic

Next month, Trinity Western University's, based in Langley, B.C., professional studies and performing arts faculty will transform into the School of the Arts, Media and Culture. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Workology

SFU opens up

In recent months, Simon Fraser University has been building its support of open-access publishing of scholarly articles. In January, the university's senate library committee endorsed an open-access strategy for the institution's library. Last month, SFU established an open-access fund to support university researchers who publish articles in open-access journals. Metro news services

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Inspiring female engineers

Professors pleased with Barbie's latest doll option

Engineering the Future

During the month of March, Metro Workology focused on the engineering field and what it means to the aspiring engineer and the world as a whole. We hope you enjoyed it and thanks for reading.

JON TATTRIE
for Metro Canada

MARK LENNIHAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Computer Engineer Barbie, right, standing along side News Anchor Barbie, is the 125th version of the iconic doll. Only 10 per cent of the engineering workforce is female.

Everybody knows Bob can build it, but what about Barbie? For career number 125, the iconic doll has mastered the geek-chic look and become Computer Engineer Barbie, according to Mattel.com.

The doll comes with a cellphone headset, laptop bag and pink laptop and was the first professional Barbie chosen by popular vote. So how do real-life women engineers feel about engineer Barbie?

Elizabeth Croft, associate head of engineering at the University of British Columbia, says Barbie is a good ambassador for women engineers.

"I don't see the downside to this. Barbie's been a doctor and a lawyer. It's only natural that she should also be an engineer," Croft says.

Croft noted only about 10 per cent of the engineering workforce is female and about 18 per cent of engineering students are female. She had no female engineering role models when she started in the profession.

She says it's a cultural issue, with people unconsciously thinking of engineering as a man's job. That changed with doctors and she says it's time for engineering to catch up. Perhaps Barbie can help engineer social change.

"I don't have any issues with Barbie. Barbie's come a long way," she says, noting she was a Lego girl herself.

In Halifax, Corinne MacDonald, assistant engineering professor at Dalhousie University, laughs when she sees the image of Computer Engineer Barbie.

"Actually, I like it. She's not even wearing heels," she says.

Like Croft, MacDonald didn't have any female engineering role models.

"That's probably one of the biggest problems we have in engineering. It's catch-22: There aren't a lot of women in engineering and to attract more women to engineering, we need more women in engineering," she says. "I think any opportunity we have to put that thought in girls' heads is a good thing."

MacDonald was a stellar math and science student in high school, but engineering never crossed her mind until she took a computer career test. Its top suggestion was engineering.

"At which I point I went, 'What's that?'" she recalls. Her guidance counsellor filled her in and MacDonald started on the engineering path. Female role models, even plastic ones, help young women visualize themselves as engineers, she says.

"I liked to play with Barbies, but I liked to play with building blocks, too. Maybe Barbie could run the project and boss all the other Barbies around," she laughs.

For more of the Engineering the Future exclusive series check Workology every Wednesday or stop by: metronews.ca/work

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Memorial gets boost to infrastructure investments
The Newfoundland and Labrador government's 2010-11 budget, announced Monday, includes significant investments in infrastructure at Memorial University and College of the North Atlantic. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Regina profs blasted on Hero take

SCHOLARSHIP Veterans and politicians say they are dismayed that a group of University of Regina professors has asked that the institution withdraw from its participation in Project Hero, a scholarship program for children of fallen Canadian Forces personnel, arguing that the program glorifies military action.

The Royal Canadian Legion disagrees, stating the issue is not about Afghanistan, but about properly caring for soldiers and the families of those who don't return from combat. Some Saskatchewan-based MPs are demanding the professors issue a public apology to Canadian military families. uRegina says it will keep the scholarship.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Workology in brief

UMANITOBA TO PROPOSE TUITION HIKES FOR PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMS At a town hall meeting last Thursday, University of Manitoba president David Barnard said the institution will propose massive tuition hikes for its professional schools to the province next month. Medicine is looking to double its fees over four years, management is seeking 55 per cent, and dentistry wants 40 per cent. While he promised to consult students on the proposed professional fee increases, Barnard said uManitoba will not guarantee holding a student referendum on the matter, as has been done previously. Barnard also stated that the university has implemented a hiring freeze, asked every faculty and department to cut 5 per cent of its budget, and learned that a market rebound means the school needs $5 million less than expected to put in its pension fund.

WINNIPEG FREE PRESS

Contractor or employee?

Labeling someone an independent contractor does not make them so

WorkplaceLaw

Metronews.ca/workplacelaw

It's workplace law's newest phenomenon: Employers, happy to unburden themselves from the various costs and liabilities associated with their employees, increasingly retaining "contractors" to perform the same services their employees did before. Often their former employees are transformed into contractors and these "contractors", content to pay less taxes than they did when employees, are not about to complain. However, this arrangement is often a fraud.

When these arrangements are challenged, sometimes many years later, courts are apt to find that the contractors were truly employees. No surprise there. The arrangement represented little else than a "label." Seldom will a label be sufficient. What really matters is how the parties behave.

When will a court find that a contractor is actually an employee?

Despite signing an independent contractor agreement and incorporating his own company, the Ontario Court of Appeal concluded that Gordon Braiden was an employee. Braiden, a sales agent, worked full time and exclusively for La-Z-Boy, which controlled which products he sold, how he sold them, where his sales territory was and what promotional methods to use. It did not matter that Braiden had incorporated his own company, according to the court, because ultimately he was part of La-Z-Boy's business, not his own business.

Just recently, the Court of Appeal also found that real estate agent Elizabeth McKee was an employee even though she had signed a contract, had her own incorporated business and invoiced her principal for commissions. Without her principal's involvement, McKee hired, trained, and managed her own subagents who worked for her in selling her employer's homes.

Following a fallout which cost her job, McKee sued arguing that she was employee. The fact that McKee operated a business within her work for the company did not mean she was a contractor, nor did the fact that she hired and supervised her own staff. Since she worked for 18 consecutive years exclusively for her employer and had become an integral part of its business, the court declined to uphold the contract and characterized her as an employee. She was then awarded nearly half a million dollars in severance.

Labeling a worker as a contractor is not dispositive, even if the worker agrees. Courts will always consider the true nature of the relationship to determine how the parties actually behaved.

If you want to employ or be employed as a contractor, then do as follows:

Ensure that there is a clear separation between the employer's business and the contractor. Permit the contractor to perform services for others and to maintain genuine discretion over how and when he or she performs the job. Even an airtight independent contractor agreement will not be reliable unless the parties stick to what it says.

Daniel A. Lublin is an employment lawyer with Whitten & Lublin LLP. Reach him at dan@toronto-employmentlawyer.com.

Many companies are opting to avoid the costs and liabilities of employees by hiring "contractors."

"Labeling a worker as a contractor is not dispositive, even if the worker agrees. Courts will always consider the true nature of the relationship to determine how the parties actually behaved."

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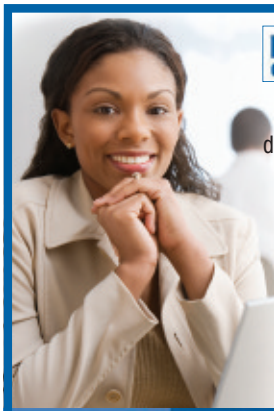

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BCIT begins work on $39.4M project

Friday marked the start of construction of British Columbia Institute of Technology's $39.4-million Campus Gateway Project at the institution's Burnaby campus. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Self-employment numbers on the rise

A new study says self-employment rose substantially during the recent economic downturn, while paid employment declined.

Statistics Canada says layoffs among paid workers might account for some of the increase in self-employment, but not all of it.

The agency reports self-employment increased by more than 100,000, or 4.3 per cent, between October 2008 and October 2009.

Meanwhile, paid employment fell by 480,000, or 3.3 per cent.

StatsCan says the decline in paid employment largely predated the increase in self-employment, raising the possibility that a large portion of the newly self-employed could have been paid employees who lost their jobs early in the downturn.

But the study found several reasons why that's unlikely — No. 1, the characteristics of those who lost their jobs bore little resemblance to those who became self-employed.

It says 28 per cent of recently laid-off paid employees came from manufacturing industries while many of the newly self-employed were in services.

Statistics Canada says the growth in self-employment was not evenly distributed across demographic groups — women, for example, accounted for 58 per cent of the increase.

Furthermore, the increase was entirely concentrated among older workers, especially those at least 55.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Self-employment, say opening your own café, rose substantially during the recession.

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Canada falling behind in learning: Report

Failure to promote lifelong learning is jeopardizing Canada's future economic prosperity, the Canadian Council on Learning warned in its swan-song report yesterday.

The Canadian Council for Learning says that Canada is falling behind other developed nations in lifelong learning.

The report was issued one day before federal funding for the council's work is to be cut off — a decision Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff called "an act of vandalism."

"Without the kind of research that the CCL does about the state of learning across the country, Canada's flying blind on learning and training and education," Ignatieff said after the report's unveiling.

The document paints a dire picture of economic stagnation and social upheaval unless more is done to ensure Canadians continue to learn throughout their lives.

"Canada has made little, if any, progress in lifelong learning over the past few years," it says.

"We remain in a holding pattern that contradicts what we profess to know to be true — that securing a sustainable future and quality of life depends on the development of our people."

Council president Paul Cappon said other developed nations are doing much more than Canada, which puts the country's economic competitiveness at risk.

"We must decide now that our learning strategies will be more effective, better organized and constantly monitored or the 21st Century for Canadians will be painful," Cappon said.

"Better organized competitors will eat our lunch."

Moreover, the report says the lack of concerted action to continuously educate Canadians, from early childhood to adulthood, will lead to more crime and illness.

"If left unchecked, lack of progress in learning at every stage of life could soon translate into increased pressures on many sectors of Canada's economy, including social-assistance programs, the healthcare system and the criminal justice system."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Plans for plug-ins

Consumer Reports surveyed 1,752 American adults and 26 per cent of them said they likely would consider a plug-in car of some kind next time they're in the market for new wheels. Seven percent said they are "very likely" to consider one. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Metro Drive

Green with EN-V

General Motors recently unveiled a trio of electric "urban mobility vehicles," built with help from the über-geeks at Segway. They're called Electric Networked Vehicles (EN-V) and they're designed for cities bursting at the seams with traffic. WIRED.COM

EDITOR: KUMAR SAHA, KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

A Sonata you can be proud of

2011 model affordable and sexy

JIM ROBINSON
for Metro Canada

This story should be about the 2011 mid-size Sonata sedan but what's happening at Hyundai Canada is perhaps just as important.

It wasn't so long ago that Hyundai thought it was a banner year if they told 25,000 units. In 2009, it sold 103,233 making Hyundai one of only six car companies to exceed 100,000 in sales in Canada. In January of this year alone, they sold 6,084 vehicles.

But the big number is Hyundai's 7.1 per cent of the market in 2009 up from 4.9 per cent in 2008. For those of you who follow the car industry, a jump like that is unheard of.

How are they doing this when others are faltering?

The 2011 Sonata says it all. The car is solid, even fun to drive which you couldn't have said about a Hyundai 10 years ago. And in a break from Sonatas that have gone before, it looks great.

Hyundai vehicles now have a substantial residual (trade-in) value. The Sonata, for example, has a residual of 53 per cent that is higher than Camry or Fusion at 49 per cent each.

Hyundai is coming to market with a hybrid in the fall. Rather than being late in the rush to electrics, Hyundai is actually moving ahead of the rest with a lithium-polymer battery that can be shaped to fit instead of being a big box of batteries.

No longer a "cheap and cheerful" A to B sedan, the 2011 Sonata is also part of a plan to get across the message that Hyundai now stands for quality which we saw begin with the Genesis sedan.

But what really stands out is the styling. To me, this is the first Hyundai to look enticing. With a touch of C-Class at the front and mixture of Lexus/Bimmer at the back, there is a wonderful character line running from the headlight along with door window sill and capped with chrome that makes the kind of "look at me" statement that Hyundai has never made before.

Power is Hyundai's new gasoline direct injection (GDI) 2.4-litre, twin cam inline four-cylinder engine. GDI results in more power and less fuel consumption. At 198 hp and 164 lb/ft of torque, which is a lot for 2.4-litres, Hyundai claims it is the most fuel-efficient in the segment at 8.7/5.7L/100 km city/highway for the six-speed manual transmission and 9.4/5.7L/100 km with the six-speed automatic.

The base GL ($22,649) comes with the manual or with the optional automatic ($24,249). The GLS ($26,249), Limited ($28,999) and Limited with navigation system ($30,999) are all fitted with the automatic.

Instead of being a bland handler, the Sonata not only points well, but it has a feel more like a European sedan. You sense with the inputs coming through the steering wheel to the fingertips which I really can't quite remember in previous Sonatas.

What Hyundai has in the 2011 Sonata is an affordable car with the kind of looks and reliability that consumers in the mid-size segment now consider seriously as the sales numbers are already proving.

But I also think it goes beyond that. It's the first Hyundai people can aspire to own, not because of the fuel economy or the price, but because they are proud to have a Hyundai in their driveway.

Hyundai says that 2011 Sonata has the best interior volume and fuel economy in the mid-size sedan segment.

2011 Hyundai Sonata

Type: Mid-size sedan
Price: from $22,649
Engine: 2.4-litre, DOHC four-cylinder
HP: 198

Highlights

- Feels like a European sedan
- Impressive styling
- Affordable

2011 Sierra Denali HD

GMC packs more power in Denali

NEW MODEL GMC has announced the new 2011 Sierra Denali HD, the first offering of the exclusive Denali line on a heavy-duty GMC pickup.

The Sierra Denali HD leads a comprehensively redesigned lineup of 2011 Sierra 2500HD and 3500HD trucks that go on sale in early summer including the most powerful diesel engine in the segment.

Sierra HD's new 6.6-litre Duramax turbo diesel delivers 397 hp at 3,000 rpm and 765 lb/ft of torque at 1,600 rpm.

The iconic Denali four-bar, chrome grille with round air inlets distinguishes the Sierra Denali HD on the outside, along with body-color bumpers, chrome door handles, chrome accents and 18- and 20-inch polished forged aluminum wheels.

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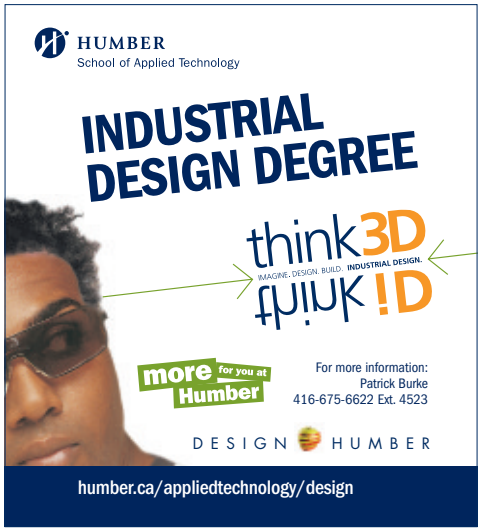

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LaCrosse improves fuel economy

The fuel-efficient four-cylinder engine is now the standard engine in the 2010 Buick LaCrosse CX sedan, offering fuel efficiency of 6.6 L/100 km in highway driving. CANADIANDRIVER.COM

Passing the professional car torch

AutoPilot

Michael Goetz

metronews.ca/autopilot

Joni Mitchell might have said it best: "You don't know what you got, till it's gone."

Or maybe it was the garage band, The Monks: "I hate you with a passion baby… but call me!"

In any case, you get the sentiment. A fixture in your life suddenly packs a suitcase and heads out the door. You don't know whether to laugh or cry.

I was thrown into such a conflicted state with the recent announcement that Ford is readying a new police car based on the new Taurus.

We knew it already, but this gives real finality to the coming curtain call of the Crown Victoria and its two stable mates — Mercury Grand Marquis and Lincoln Town Car. The only reason these cars have lasted this long is because they are loved by those with "professional car" needs — police forces, funeral operators, and limousine, rental and taxi fleets.

And not because these cars are technically advanced. But rather, because they're not technically advanced.

They are the last full-size American cars standing with body-on-frame construction, V8 power, front bench seats, and a transmission shifter mounted on the steering column.

"That platform has to go back to the 1970s," says Walt McCall, over the phone from Windsor, Ont. McCall literally wrote the book on professional vehicles (18 of them actually, with a specialty in hearses and fire trucks).

He adds that the police business basically fell into Ford's lap, after Chrysler and GM downsized and "front-drived" their largest sedans.

While police vehicles based on Dodge Chargers and Chevrolet Impalas are making inroads, the Crown Vic police car still dominates. Chances are, if you have ever been "pulled over" for a discussion on a driving manoeuvre, and/or have been requested to spend a night or more in the "crowbar hotel," a Crown Victoria has been idling nearby.

Ford is readying a new police car based on its Taurus platform and finally calling it curtains for the the St. Thomas, Ont.-built Crown Victoria, arguably the most used cop vehicle.

The plant in St. Thomas, Ont., is the exclusive production facility for those dinosaurs; Ford said it would close the plant sometime in 2011.

"No doubt we're in an era of change," says McCall. "There's a big question mark about these specialty vehicles, particularly which ones we will see used in the funeral and limousine business."

So if you're not in the business of moving dead bodies around, should you be worried about the looming passing of this automotive form, the big-frame, big-engine, rear-drive, "three-box" American sedan?

I'm a little verklempted, but most people seem to be taking it in stride.

Jamie Bull, general manager of Heritage Ford in Scarborough says no one is busting his door down, looking for new Crown Vices. For one, thing, they're only available to bona fide fleet accounts. For another, because many go into rental service, year-old ones can be had at considerable savings ($18,000 vs $35,000).

Bull adds the vehicles have their devotees, but they're definitely not a big, unruly group. Generally, he says, "these are buyers looking for a big, simple car, with not too many buttons and switches."

"Chances are, if you have ever been "pulled over" … a Crown Victoria has been idling nearby."

Michael Goetz has been writing about cars and editing automotive publications for over 20 years. He lives in Toronto with his family and a neglected 1967 Jaguar E-type.

HERE'S A FACT:

"More **enjoyable** to drive than Toyota Camry, **better looking** than the Honda Accord…"

- AUTOMOBILE Magazine

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Fuel cell bus in development
A fuel cell-powered city bus is under development and is scheduled to be delivered to a Southern California transit agency in late 2011. BAE Systems, which produces hybrid electric propulsion systems for transit buses, is helping to developing the fuel cell bus. CANADIANDRIVER.COM

GTI brings hot hatch excitement

JUSTIN PRITCHARD
for Metro Canada

MODEL: 2007 to 2009 Volkswagen GTI
VEHICLE TYPE: Three-door or five-door performance hatchback
APPROXIMATE USED PRICE RANGE: $17,000 to $24,000

HISTORY/DESCRIPTION: The Volkswagen GTI has a long history of combining the utility of a hatchback and the performance of a sports car. Volkswagen has just updated the GTI for the 2010 model year, and the preceding generation has transitioned fully into the used car marketplace.

Second Gear

Last-generation GTI models were available in three- or five-door models from 2007 to 2009. This generation offer shoppers much of the same flexibility, performance and refinement as the 2010 model — but at a lower used-car price.

All last-gen GTI models were powered by a two-liter four-cylinder engine with direct injection and an intercooled turbocharger. Output was rated at 200 horsepower, and transmission options included a six-speed manual or a six-speed dual-clutch Direct Shift Gearbox or DSG. The DSG transmission functions as an automatic, but can also execute perfectly rev-matched and lightning-fast shifts via shift paddles mounted to the steering wheel.

Look for options like a sunroof, heated leather, xenon lighting, 18-inch wheels, heated mirrors and a 10-speaker stereo system.

PHOTO COURTESY VW CANADA
2007-09 Volkwagen GTIs pack both fun and dependability in one impressive hatchback.

WHAT OWNERS LIKE: The GTI's performance was the big draw for most owners, though utility, fuel mileage and overall quality and refinement of the vehicle were commonly praised, too.

WHAT OWNERS HATE: Some owners wish for a more comfortable ride, especially with the 18-inch wheels and low-profile tires mounted.

COMMON ISSUES: Thankfully, the last-generation GTI's engine seems to be largely free of the issues that plagued the 1.8 litre turbo engine in the generation before it. A few checks are still advised, though.

Watch for smoke from the tailpipe with the engine running and driving. Smoke could indicate a problem with the turbocharger or cylinder head.

Where possible, and especially on higher-mileage units, remove the plumbing that connects the turbocharger to the intercooler and inspect for oil buildup inside. A thin film of oil is typically normal–though any pooling or heavy buildup could indicate worn out turbo seals.

A blocked PCV valve or worn-out diverter valve could cause weak or inconsistent performance. These are easy parts to fix, but be sure to have your potential used GTI candidate inspected by a VW mechanic if you're not comfortable with how it's running.

Numerous owners have had to reprogram or replace the computer that controls the advanced DSG transmission. This relatively un-proven driveline component could be expensive to replace out of warranty — so if in doubt, just opt for the six-speed stick. Note that some delay between throttle application and forward motion is normal with the DSG transmission, but harsh shifting or 'surging' are not.

Finally, inspect all electric and electronic features for proper operation, and call the condition of any excessively worn-out tires or brakes into pricing negotiations.

THE VERDICT: A used last-generation VW GTI with a thumbs up from a mechanic should prove to be an exciting and dependable ride for years.

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Finance example based on new 2010 Civic DX Sedan, model FA1E2AEX, available through Honda Financial Services on approved credit. ‡‡MSRP is $17,420 (TURN-KEY Centre Honda PRICE MSRP is $16,495 / $25,495 / $26,995 / $27,995 / $28,015 / $28,995 / $29,995 / $32,995 / $34,995 / $35,995 / $36,995 / $37,995 / $38,995 / $39,995 / $40,995 / $41,995 / $42,995 / $43,995 / $44,995 / $45,995 / $46,995 / $47,995 / $48,995 / $49,995 / $50,995 / $51,995 / $52,995 / $53,995 / $54,995 / $55,995 / $56,995 / $57,995 / $58,995 / $59,995 / $60,995 / $61,995 / $62,995 / $63,995 / $64,995 / $65,995 / $66,995 / $67,995 / $68,995 / $69,995 / $70,995 / $71,995 / $72,995 / $73,995 / $74,995 / $75,995 / $76,995 / $77,995 / $78,995 / $79,995 / $80,995 / $81,995 / $82,995 / $83,995 / $84,995 / $85,995 / $86,995 / $87,995 / $88,995 / $89,995 / $90,995 / $91,995 / $92,995 / $93,995 / $94,995 / $95,995 / $96,995 / $97,995 / $98,995 / $99,995 / $100,995 / $101,995 / $102,995 / $103,995 / $104,995 / $105,995 / $106,995 / 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Mermaids return to Ripley's ponds
Following standing-room only performances at both Ripley's Aquariums in 2009, the world famous mermaids of Weeki Wachee Springs State Park in Florida, will be returning to both aquariums this summer. ripleysaquarium.com. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Travel

Rolling into Mexico's gold coast party

Motorcycle fans are gearing up for five days of high-octane fun and adventure along Mexico's golden Pacific Coast. Mazatlán hosts the 15th Annual International Motorcycle Week from Apr. 7 – 11. This year's event is expected to draw more than 300,000 bikers and spectators to Mazatlán from across North America and Mexico. The centrepiece of the 2010 International Motorcycle Week is the Great Parade, when more than 15,000 bikers take part in a colourful procession of international motorcycle clubs. Visit gomazatlan.com. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: BEN.RYCROFT@METRONEWS.CA

Meander into Morocco

Metro finds the best places to see, eat and drink in this Muslim nation

CÉLIA PEDROSO
Metro World News

Agadir has a warm weather all year long, perfect for relaxing after the adventures in other regions of Morocco.

Metro found what to see, and eat and the do's and do not's for the region.

SEE
La Vallée des Oiseaux
The Valley of the Birds is a small zoo where you can find indigenous and migratory birds.

Children love it and access is via the Petit Train (the small train). Also see the Earthquake Museum (Agadir was destroyed by a huge quake in 1960) in the Jardim de Olhão.

HEAR
Berber sounds
Some bars in the Corniche (the promenade by the sea) offer traditional live music. Bar Fly in hotel Tafoukt, in the city centre, has a lively atmosphere and has both karaoke and live music in its Moroccan lounge. To get in the mood sit in and puff the water pipe.

EAT
Fresh sardines
In the Corniche, relaxing in front of the sea, you can enjoy real fresh fish, like sardines (Agadir is the world biggest sardine fishing port) or seafood. Traditional meals, like the couscous and tagine (meat or vegetable dish made in a clay pot with spices) are tasty and cheap. Avoid the very touristy places where waiters try to talk to you in German.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Hardcore surfers will prefer Taghazoute, but Moroccan beaches have more to offer than the surf.

Flight costs

- From Canada to Morocco the cheapest way is usually to fly with Zoom to London and then to catch a budget flight to Morocco. It will cost you around $1,000.

DRINK
Thé à la menthe
Although Morocco is a Muslim country you can drink alcohol in most restaurants, bars and cafés. And, Moroccan red wine can be quite good. However, the best drink on a terrace is the traditional thé à la menthe (mint tea, very sweet). Try the terrace at Palais des Roses Hotel.

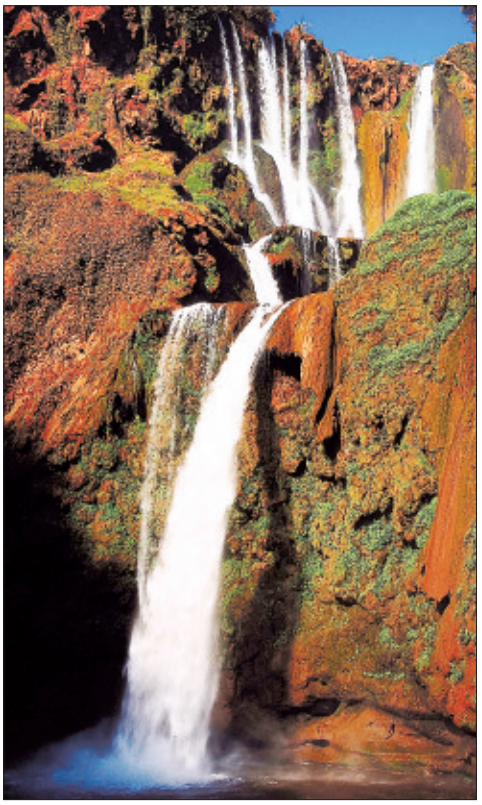
WEAR
T-shirt or a top
Moroccan people are very friendly and their hospitality is well know. However some visitors forget that this is a Muslim country, failing to respect local culture. Not wearing a T-shirt in the city or a bikini top on the beach is simply not acceptable.

No matter how hot it gets, resist taking off that T-shirt.

DO
The Beach
The hardcore surfers prefer the Taghazoute, some kilometres up North, but Agadir remains perfect for most windsurfing, kite surfing, sailing, jet-skiing or even for a relaxing horse ride by the sea.

DON'T
Take pictures without asking
Don't take pictures of people without asking them first. People are friendly but like everywhere else they don't like to feel they're being watched.

Some might ask for a small tip but in general they simply say yes.



METRO WORLD NEWS

Be sure to ask before you take photos.

SAY
'Shokran'
If you want to show some courtesy say "shokran" (thank you). In Agadir people speak mainly Berber, Arabic and French. But as result of being a seaside tourist city, many speak English and German as well.

DON'T SAY
'No to thé à la menthe'
If you're offered a thé à la menthe in a shop, café, hotel or at a Moroccan's home you should accept it. This is sign of courtesy from your host which wants to welcome you.

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Resort earns eco-award

Recognizing the resort's commitment to protecting biodiversity and the fragile ecosystem of the Riviera Maya, Sandos Caracol Eco Resort & Spa has received the prestigious Mesoamerican Reef Tourism Initiative's (MARTI) Sustainable Hotel Certification. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Ray's caters to street riders, mountain bikers and dirt jumpers.

Bringing the mountain indoors

Cleveland quickly becoming a Mecca for extreme bike riders

SUSAN GREENWOOD
Metro World News

Cleveland: Steel, flats as far as the eye can see, great piles of factories, smoke curling into the sky, rivers cleaving their way through the mud.

Not a lot to commend it to the uninitiated.

To the seasoned mountain biker however Cleveland is Mecca.

For here, in the industrial heartland of the Mid West is Ray's Mountain Bike Park — the world's biggest — 100,000 square feet of ramps, routes, drop offs and jumps.

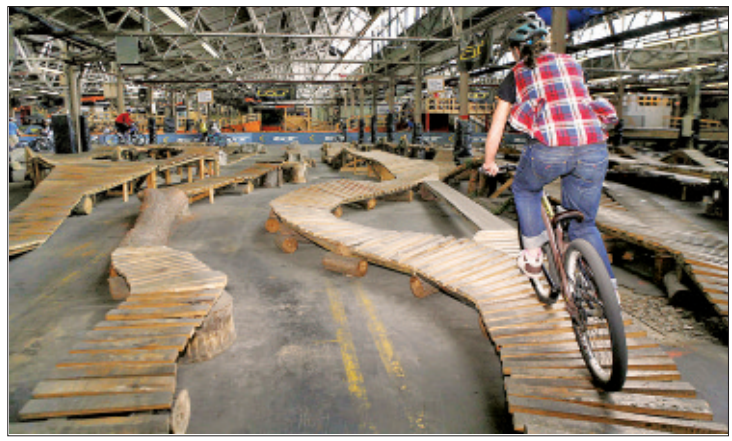
A bike heaven built from an old parachute warehouse and a refuge in the winter months when riding outside is only for the insane.

Skate and BMX parks are pretty well established across Europe and the United States. But Ray's is the first location to cater to all types of mountain bikers. Here, Lycra-clad cross-country folk share space with dirt jumpers and the facilities are built to test — and help you improve — your skills. There are technical rocky sections, places to practise your balance and a pit filled with foam for those keen to nail backflips without landing on wood or concrete.

Rock music blares out from the sound system and bike videos play on a loop on the big flat screen TV.

The routes, which are mainly made of wood, were born back in 2004 with an 'if you build it, they will come' mentality and it's thrived ever since.

Bikers travel from all over the world to ride at Ray's because there's nothing else like it.



METRO WORLD NEWS

Ray's is the world's largest indoor mountain bike park with over 100,000 square feet of fun.

Want to go?

- There are lots of discount hotels in the area
- Check out raysmtb.com for directions and accommodations.
- There is also a list of admission pricing and park rules.

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Chill out in style at Austria's ice hotel

Perched 2,700 m above Solden ski resort, this high-tech igloo blends creativity and comfort

PAUL BALDWIN
Metro World News

Way back in the mists of time, a few not awfully bright apes — who were obviously finding the sunny plains of Africa a little too warm — upped sticks and headed for somewhere cooler.

That they arrived in the obviously inhospitable Arctic and refused to go back tells you all you need to know about human stubbornness. But no matter, it also meant humans learned to build the igloo.

Fast forward several millennia and we find that oddest of architectural skills has been taken to a new level on the highest glacier in the Austrian Tyrol, the Rettenbach.

And this being the 21st century, and despite the fact that it's -15C outside and -6C inside, you now get to pay for the igloo experience.

And it's actually rather terrific.

Welcome to the schneedorf (snow village), Austria's highest hotel at 2,700m in the Tyrolean Alps above the ski resort of Solden.

The early Inuit would choke on their blubber at the sight. Hi-tech igloo-construction methods mean old-fashioned ice-bricks were ditched in favor of using huge balloons as a frame to pack the snow around — then deflating the balloons.

The result is a roomy structure with different rooms, tables, stools, beds (very cold beds) made from packed snow, with sheepskin-covered air mattresses, risqué snow sculptures carved into the walls, and perhaps more importantly hot chocolate laced with schnapps and bowls of delicious goulash.

And by candlelight it's magical. Cold, but magical.

You can get there by bus, but it's more fun to arrive on skis after a day on the slopes. A little exhaustion will also help you fall asleep to the sound of the walls creaking gently, and unnervingly.

It's impossibly romantic too, which throws up something of a conundrum for lovers. You'll want to snuggle up but problem is you're wearing five layers of clothes.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Try staying a night in a modern-day igloo.

Temperatures are -6C indoors at the hotel.

Canada's own ice hotel

• Celebrating its 10th anniversary, the Hotel de Glace (icehotel-canada.com), which is just a 30-minute drive from Quebec City, is the only ice hotel in North America.

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Travel Apr 1 - Apr 8/c6 + taxes & fees $277

Fort Lauderdale $59
Travel May 7 - May 14/ts + taxes & fees $235

Panama City $135
Travel Apr 3 - Apr 10/wg + taxes & fees $220

New York $179
Travel Apr 21 - Apr 28/la + taxes & fees $95

Manchester $199
Travel May 11 - May 18/ts + taxes & fees $408

Chicago $238
Travel May 5 - May 12/pd + taxes & fees $121

Hamburg $249
Travel Jun 9 - Jun 17/ts + taxes & fees $307

Paris $294
Travel Jun 12 - Jun 18/ts + taxes & fees $356

Phoenix $389
Travel May 5 - May 12/dl + taxes & fees $126

Lima $469
Travel May 10 - May 18/ac + taxes & fees $219

Johannesburg $929
Travel Apr 21 - May 5/af + taxes & fees $507

Vacations

Atlantic City
Air + 4 Nights 4-Star
$179
Ballys Atlantic City + taxes & fees $118
INCLUDES accom on the boardwalk.
Departs Apr 25/wsv/ws.

Miami Air + 3 Nights $329
Deauville Beach Resort + taxes & fees $116
INCLUDES accom in the heart of Miami Beach.
Departs Apr 29/ggv/dl.

Las Vegas Air + 4 Nights 4-Star $365
Luxor + taxes & fees $241
Departs Jun 6/swg/wg.

California Air + 7-Day Car $499
+ taxes & fees $133
INCLUDES air to San Francisco, return from LA and 7-day car rental. Travel May 4 - 11/ggv/aa.
ADD Grgich Winery tour for $149.

New Orleans Air + 3 Nights $599
Holiday Inn French Quarter + taxes & fees $124
INCLUDES accom in the French Quarter. Departs Apr 26/ggv/aa.

Calgary Stampede
Air + 3 Nights + Activities $999
Sandman Hotel Downtown Calgary + taxes & fees $127
INCLUDES tickets to the Rodeo, Chuckwagon races, Grandstand Show and sky-ride, souvenir programs and Stampede souvenir golf shirt.
Departs Jul 11/ggv/ws.

All-inclusive Vacations

Varadero
7 Nights 3.5-Star
$297
Gran Caribe Club Puntarena + taxes & fees $214
Departs Apr 9/nol/ts.

Puerto Vallarta 7 Nights 4-Star $387
Friendly Hola Vallarta + taxes & fees $281
Departs Apr 5/vat/5g/c6.

Punta Cana 7 Nights 4-Star $495
Blau Natura Park + taxes & fees $220
Departs Apr 6/swg/wg.

Jamaica 7 Nights 4-Star $497
Holiday Inn Sunspree Resort Montego Bay + taxes & fees $277
Departs Apr 2/nol/5g.

Panama 7 Nights 4-Star $597
Royal Decameron + taxes & fees $243
Departs Apr 12/nol/ts.

St Maarten 7 Nights 4.5-Star $858
Sonesta Maho Beach Resort & Casino + taxes & fees $249
Departs Apr 3/vat/ts.

Family Vacation

Orlando *Harry Potter Wizarding World*
Air + 7 Nights + Passes $299◊
Champions World Resort + taxes & fees $236
INCLUDES 3-day *Universal Studios Park* to Park Ticket including the new *Wizarding World of Harry Potter*. Departs Jun 18/ggv/ts.

Europe Vacations

Paris
Air + 5 Nights
$435
Hotel des Arts + taxes & fees $356
Departs Jun 12/vat/ts.

Prague
3 Nights + Transfer + Activity $379‡
Harmony Hotel taxes & fees included
INCLUDES accom with breakfast, arrival transfer and Grand City Tour of Prague. Travel daily May 15 - Jun 30/ggv.

Europe 4-Country Explorer
Air + Rail Pass $749
+ taxes & fees $360
INCLUDES air to Frankfurt, return from Amsterdam and 5-day flexible Eurail Benelux - Germany rail pass. Travel Apr 20 - May 4/ggv/lh.
ADD Orange Bike tour in Amsterdam for $33.

United Kingdom
Air + 7 Nights + Car $899
Discover Britain Bed & Breakfasts + taxes & fees $406
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Girl's Night coming to Vegas
Girl's Night: The Musical will make its Las Vegas debut at the Hollywood Theatre for a limited engagement May 6-26, 2010. METRO NEWS SERVICES

METRO WORLD NEWS

Take in the opera at La Scalla for a taste of the true Italian culture.

Soak in Milan's style

Find the quirky corners of this artisan culture

ROMINA MCGUINNESS
Metro World News

It has a delightful aura of decadence and glamour.

Metro found the places to stay and play in Milan.

WHERE TO WAKE UP
Maison Moschino
(hotelphilosophy.com)
Slightly surreal converted 18th century railway station with enchanting themed rooms — the "Alice" is a wonderland with a giant teacup table; the "Petal" — whose bed appears to be permanently scattered in red petals or the 'Evening Wear' uses a giant ballgown theme.

SPEND THE MORNING
Naviglio
Naviglio, a neighborhood framed by two canals (Leonardo da Vinci was behind some of the building plans) was a commercial hub until the mid 20th century but is now a quirky place full of artists and craftspeople. Try and catch the monthly flea market.

WHERE TO LUNCH
Luini
(luini.it)
Tucked on a side street off Piazza Duomo, Luini is the ultimate pastry-pizza paradise.

Try the tomato and mozzarella panzerotto — a Puglian delicacy that is neither a pizza nor a pastry but a fiercely guarded family recipe — and eat piping hot at the counter or outside on a bench.

SPEND THE AFTERNOON
Shopping
(armani.com)
You can't spend time in Milan without doing what is expected of every Milanese person — shopping in extravagance and most importantly, style. At Giorgio Armani's, 31 Via Manzoni, everything from clothes to candy is stamped with the iconic designer label.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Spend the afternoon shopping in Milan's extravagance.

DINNER CHOICE
La Torre di Pisa
(trattoriatorredipisa.it)
A gem tucked in the quiet quarter that is Brera. Wander quiet cobbled streets to this traditional trattoria serving homemade ravioli, rissoles, creamy polenta and spicy spaghetti a la putanesca.

ENTERTAINMENT
Opera at La Scala
(teatroallascala.org)
Have a "Pretty Woman" moment and book some seats at La Scala. This is the perfect excuse to dress up in your favorite frock.

The stunning interior design remains very much as it was in 1778 and the performances are among the world's best.

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Blue Mountain offering big discounts

In celebration of Easter, The Westin Trillium House, Blue Mountain's only AAA/CAA Four-Diamond resort, has announced a special rate of $100 for the first 100 rooms booked for stays between Mar. 30 and Apr. 4, 2010. METRO NEWS SERVICES

METRO WORLD NEWS

Trek across the Sahara desert in traditional style on the back of a camel.

5 go wild destinations

Metro finds the best spots to get up close with animals

ROMINA MCGUINNESS
Metro World News

A country's animal population can be every bit as fascinating as its human one.

With wildlife holidays becoming increasingly thrilling and accessible, here are Metro's favourite five wildlife vacations.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Witness the march of penguins in Antarctica.

1 SHARKS
Aliwal Shaol, South Africa

The sleepy coastal town of Umkomaas is where you'll find this great diving spot. The rocky reef in the Indian Ocean boasts a stunning array of sealife but most notably, sharks. Guides take groups scuba diving within meters of this feared fish.

2 PENGUINS
Antarctica

At Ushuaia, jump on board the Kapitan Khlebnikov a Russian Soviet era ice-breaker which smashes a path through the frozen Weddell sea until it reaches Snow Hill Island — land of the Emperor Penguin. If the ice prevents arrival by boat, you'll be dropped off by helicopter.

3 CAMELS
Sahara (Morocco)

Trek the Sahara desert in traditional Bedouin style, which is on the back of a camel. Climb over the high dunes of Erg Chebbi until sunset when you set up your Bedouin tent and enjoy the night sky.

(camel trekking.com)

4 ELEPHANTS
Corbett National Park, India

Weave your way through the thick mango grove that is Corbett National Park as you let your driver — an elephant — cross rivers, hills and rocks.

You'll be taken past the foothills of the Himalayas and over to the bank of the Ramaganga River.

Bond with your animal and they will show you sights you never thought possible.

(corbetthideaway.com)

5 GIANT TORTOISE
Galapagos Islands, Ecuador

The Galapagos Tortoise has become the emblem of these strange and incredibly important islands.

They can weigh up to 300kg and live for 150 years and are amazing to discover in herds at watering holes across the island.

They are still among the most threatened species in the world though breeding programmes have met with success.

(discovergalapagos.com)

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Lost star Kim gets hitched

She may be "lost" for a few more episodes but Yunjin Kim has found the man of her dreams. The South Korean actress who plays Sun Kwon on ABC's hit Lost, married her boyfriend, Jeong Hyeok Park, in Hawaii on Sunday. PEOPLE.COM

Entertainment

Back to books

James Franco may be hitting the books ... again. The actor, 31, has been accepted to Yale University's English Ph.D program, the Yale Herald reports, adding that he will begin in September.

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Cyrus shines in serious acting role

Sparks' latest adaptation is predictable romance

The Last Song

Director: Julie Anne Robinson
Stars: Miley Cyrus, Liam Hemsworth, Kelly Preston, Greg Kinnear
Classification: PG
Rating: ⊕⊕

ANNE BRODIE
for Metro Canada

Miley Cyrus leaves her cheery Hannah Montana persona behind in her latest role as an irritable, depressed teenager in The Last Song. It shows a good start in proving herself a dramatic actress.

So Miley Cyrus is dating her co-star in The Last Song, Liam Hemsworth, a handsome tanned and blond Australian actor.

Now that's out of the way, there's bigger news for Cyrus' fans in this moody movie written by Nicholas Sparks.

Cyrus doesn't sing but plays classical piano; instead of spreading her charm far and wide, she mopes and rebels and fails to thrive. She's irritable, depressed, dressed in teenaged angst black and just wants to be alone. You almost expect her to pull out a cigarette. Hannah Montana, the squeaky clean TV and movie supernova that made the Cyrus family famous and wealthy, is gone. At 17, Cyrus is attempting a brand relaunch as a serious actress.

She plays Ronnie, who's traumatised by the divorce of her parents and struggling to get her bearings in a world she no longer trusts. Rebellion boils over when she's sent to spend the summer with her estranged father (Greg Kinnear) at his beach house. She refuses to speak to him and takes off at the slightest whiff of parental concern. But the beach volleyball kids write her off as emo, and the tough kids try to lure her into drugs and violence. An alpha guy from the volleyball brigade named Will seems to like her without judging her, but Ronnie resists him because she's haunted by the fragility and heartbreak of love she witnessed in her parents' break-up.

But Ronnie and Will get to know each other on the beach, a sensual and romantic setting where sunrises, lapping waves and minimal clothing lead to longing stares and an occasional kiss. They bond over the plight of the sea turtle. But their romantic, sexless idyll is soon broken by tragedy. After all, this is a Nicholas Sparks story; chastity and misfortune make for plenty of bittersweet tears and repeat business.

Cyrus is interesting; she has unconventional looks, a voice like a trucker, atrocious posture, and frequent public lapses of good taste in evening wear. But she is magnetic and appealing with considerable screen presence. She is a star because of her winning persona, not the singing, or the dancing. She does her best to further herself as a dramatic actress and hopefully, she'll continue to find roles that will challenge her, and her fans.

The film's technical and artistic elements are easily digestible, the story relatively engaging and Sparks continues his sappy but winning ways. A Walk to Remember, Nights in Rodanthe, Dear John, the almighty The Notebook and The Last Song shape a new kind of contempo romance, driven by female performances for young female audiences. In Cyrus' case, it's a good start to the journey of growing up that her fans will share.

Screentimes

TORONTO/GTA DOWNTOWN
- Yonge-Eglinton Centre: No Passes Wed 3:30-6:45-9:45

WEST END
- Queensway: No Passes Wed 3:45-6:55-9:45

EAST END
- Beach Cinemas: No Passes Wed 7:30-10:20

NORTH YORK
- Empress Walk: Wed-Thu 12:45-3:45-7:15-10:10
- Silvercity Yorkdale: Wed-Thu 12:45-3:45-7:15-10:10
- Silvercity Fairview: No Passes Wed 1:50-4:40-7:30-10:15
- No Passes Thu 1:50-4:40-7:30-10:30

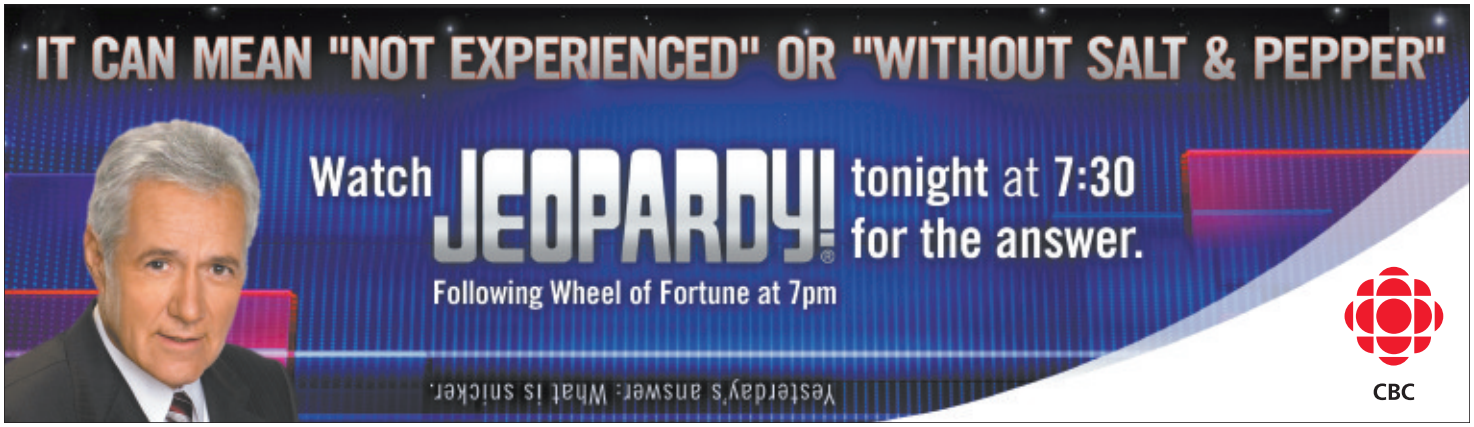
SCARBOROUGH
- Coliseum Scarborough: No Passes Wed-Thu 12:55-3:55-7:05-9:55
- Eglinton Town Centre: No Passes Wed-Thu 4:05-7:05-9:45
- 401 & Morningside: No Passes Wed-Thu 3:50-6:50-9:30

PEEL REGION
- Coliseum 10: No Passes Wed 4:05-7:15-10:10 No Passes Thu 1-4:05-7:15-10:10
- Courtney Park 16: Wed-Thu 1-1:35-4-4:30-7:05-7:40-10-10:40
- Orion Gate Grande: No Passes Wed-Thu 3:40-7-9:35
- Silvercity Brampton: No Passes Wed 3:20-6:55-9:55 No Passes Thu 3:15-6:45-10:10
- Silvercity Mississauga: No Passes Wed-Thu 4:30-7:40-10:20

NORTH
- Elgin Mills 10: Wed 5:20-8:20
- Interchange 30: Wed-Thu 3:30-4:15-5-6-6:45-7:30-8:45-9:30-10:15
- Promenade Mall: Wed-Thu 1:25-4-7:05-9:25
- Silvercity Newmarket: No Passes Wed-Thu 3:35-6:45-9:20
- Silvercity Richmond Hill: No Passes Wed-Thu 3:45-6:45-9:30

HALTON
- Galaxy Cinemas: No Passes Wed-Thu 6:45-9:45
- Silvercity Burlington 8: No Passes Wed-Thu 6:50-9:30
- Silvercity Oakville: No Passes Wed-Thu 6:50-9:40

DURHAM
- Ajax: No Passes Wed-Thu 6:50-9:30
- Pickering 8: No Passes Wed-Thu 5:10-7:55
- Whitby 24: Wed-Thu 2:15-3-4:25-5-5:30-7-7:35-8:15-9:45-10:15



Peaches canned

Peaches Geldof, right, has been sacked by underwear range Ultimo after naked pictures of her allegedly engaging in a heroin-fuelled romp with a man were put on the Internet. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

Get Twiggy with it

Back in the '60s, when Twiggy conquered London and fashion changed forever, the waif of a teen with huge eyes, a boyish bob and long legs craved the glamour and curves of a different icon.

"I wanted a fairy godmother to make me look like Marilyn Monroe. I had no boobs, no hips, and I wanted it desperately," said the world's first boldface supermodel.

What she wanted was all around her: Fuller-figure models with names nobody remembers, many of them middle-class or upper-crust older girls biding their time before landing husbands. Absent any of that, what Twiggy had was extreme youth, a thirst for fashion and triple-layered false eyelashes that fed her right into the decade's social revolution alongside the Beatles and Pop art.

Now 60, she remains a one-name wonder with a joyous laugh, a gift for chat and a home girl cockney accent. She's achieved, slightly, some of those coveted curves, but she hasn't lost her edge. The singer, dancer, actress and author isn't done yet.

On April 3, Twiggy will hit HSN with an affordable line of skinny jeans, ruffled blouses, gypsy skirts, jackets and accessories in bold colours and price points of under $100. That, she said, would have pleased her younger self, who saved up spending money to splurge at London's Biba boutique.

"I've always had the strong belief that fashion should be for everyone, not just for wealthy people," said Twiggy. "Lots of people can't afford to spend lots of money on clothes, and they should have nice things, too."

Lots of people who wear lots of different sizes. The "Twiggy London" line will be available up to around size 20, said the creator, who cites genes — not starvation — for the rail-thin look that made her the face of 1966 at age 16.

It's not the first time Twiggy has indulged her interest in design, or remote shopping. Her "Twiggy Collection" of last decade was sold online through Great Universal. There were other home shopping ventures as well. Back in the '60s, she put out a line for teens but left it in the dust of some bad business partners after three years.

The youngest of three girls, she was born Lesley Hornby in north London's Neasden to a carpenter dad and a factory worker mom who worked a Woolworth's counter to earn extra money. At 5-feet-6, Twiggy weighed only 91 pounds when she exploded into the culture.

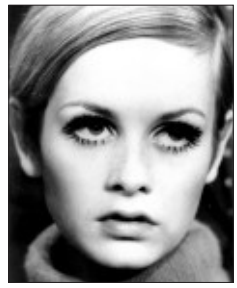
Working Saturdays as an assistant in a hair salon, she met Nigel Davies, who became her boyfriend and manager, changing to the flashier Justin de Villeneuve. They arranged for a popular hairdresser to engineer her androgynous 'do for photos he put up in his salon. The pictures were spotted by one of his clients who wrote for the Daily Express and splashed Twiggy across two pages to launch her career.

By 1967, she was on the cover of Vogue, jetting around the world working six days a week and spreading the London look to America.

Before she was discovered, she was already painting on tiny lower lashes — "my twigs" — to help make her eyes look as large as tea saucers. Her look was perfect for emerging unisex trends and ever-rising hemlines.

She retired from modelling in 1970 after four years, joking at the time: "You can't be a clothes hanger for your entire life." She moved on to stage, films, TV and singing, earning two Golden Globes and a Tony nomination. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

These handbags and shoes, above, from the Twiggy fashion line for HSN (Home Shopping Network) will be available in bold colours on April 3.



Fashion model Twiggy, as seen in this 1968 file photo.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTOS

Twiggy, as seen in one of her designs for HSN, in London.

Babs hits the books

Barbra Streisand will appear at the opening-night keynote reception for BookExpo America to promote My Passion for Design. The book world's annual national convention will be held May 25-27 at the Jacob K. Javits Center in New York City. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Like mother, like daughter

When Madonna needed inspiration for her latest fashion collection, she didn't have to look far. The pop icon teamed up with her daughter Lourdes, 13, to create Material Girl, a juniors' clothing line that debuts at Macy's this fall.

The collection includes jeans, shoes, fingerless gloves, necklaces and other accessories. Many of the pieces are inspired by Madonna and her daughter's dance roots.

Madonna recently spoke about Material Girl, Lourdes (a.k.a. Lola) and her fashion risks and regrets.

Q Why did you want to do a juniors' line?

A Lola has been bothering me for ages about designing clothes. Stella McCartney is a good friend of mine and she got her mind thinking when Lola was a little girl, about eight years old. She started giving Lola fabrics and inviting her into her showroom and asking her opinion on things, giving her sketch books and stuff like that ... The last two tours I have done, (Lola) has been working in the wardrobe department. On this last tour she dressed all of the dancers.

Q What has Lola taught you about fashion?

A I am boring, basically. She reminds me of me when I was younger. She just goes for it and tries different things. It doesn't look like she thought too much about it. That is how I used to be, but after years and years of everybody commenting on the way I look and dress and being photographed, one starts to become self-conscious and starts to plan things more.

Q What has it been like to work with your daughter?

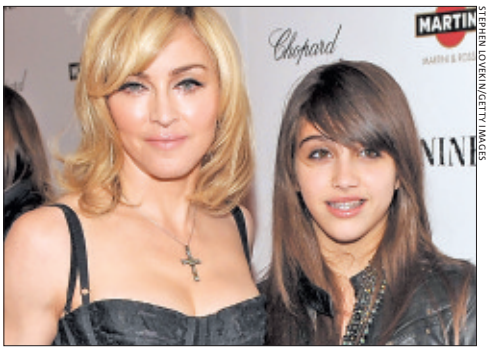
A It is good because she does have good taste in fashion. I respect her taste and I rarely disagree with her.

Q Was part of you hesitant about Lola designing this line as she would be thrust into the spotlight?

A That is why I am here talking about the line and she is not. Eventually I will let her. I feel like she needs to get into high school and focus on her studies, her lessons. She got into the high school of the performing arts. She has a lot of work to do. I don't want her to be distracted. She will eventually be able to talk about it. I am going to be happy when she does because she can speak much more clearly and in a more informed way than I can about a line she is ultimately designing.

Q The clothing is affordable. Why was it important to you to keep the price low?

A When I was 13-years-old, I couldn't afford designer clothes. I couldn't afford expensive clothing. When I designed a line of clothes for H&M, that was one of the things I liked so much about it, that it was really affordable. I think that is one of the nice things about it, that you can make nice clothes at affordable prices.



STEPHEN LOVEKIN/GETTY IMAGES

Madonna and her 13-year-old daughter Lourdes.

Q You are known as being a fashion risk taker. Do you ever look back and wonder, "What was I thinking?"

A Yeah. I would rather not point them out. I think I had a lot of bad hair moments. In the early '80s just sometimes I wore purple lipstick or green lipstick. Clothing-wise, I am happy about the way I dressed.

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Dancing with the enemy
Sources backstage at Dancing With the Stars reported to popeater.com the sparring between Kate Gosselin and partner Tony Dovolani seen on Monday's show is just the tip of the iceberg, and that things escalated so quickly that Kate insisted Tony get the boot from the program. POPEATER.COM

McCartney's ex back in court

Heather Mills, the ex-wife of Paul McCartney, defended herself from accusations made by a former nanny at an employment tribunal in Britain yesterday.

Sara Trumble, 26, said Mills was a rude, angry and dishonest woman who forced her to lie to McCartney.

But Mills said yesterday she treated 26-year-old Trumble like a daughter, showering her with gifts and foreign travel.

It was the second day the case was heard at an employment tribunal in the town of Ashford, in southern England, where Trumble is suing Mills for allegedly stripping her of her child-care duties after she gave birth to her own baby girl.

Trumble worked for McCartney and Mills, looking after their young daughter Beatrice, but she claims her relationship with Mills began to deteriorate after her split from the ex-Beatle.

Trumble says she was progressively moved out of her job as a nanny, and that Mills refused to show her any flexibility once she became pregnant with her own child.

The former nanny also claimed that the 42-year-old "Dancing With The Stars" contestant became increasingly bad-tempered after the separation.

"I wasn't the only person who felt that at that time," Trumble said. "It's just that nobody else will stand up. I decided to take action and fight this for myself."

Mills said the charge that she refused to make allowances for her nanny's child was insulting, and both agreed that they had once been close.

Sara Trumble ex-nanny of Heather Mills, arrives at an employment tribunal court in Ashford, England, Monday.

In previous testimony, Trumble said she provided Mills with "comfort and support" after her split with McCartney. Taking the stand yesterday, Mills said she was the one who gave her nanny a shoulder to cry on.

"I treated Sara like my daughter as she often complained that her mother was cold and distant to her," Mills said. "I spent much of my time consoling her, especially when she said she was having problems with her partner."

Trumble accuses Mills of reducing her to tears after calling her back into work while she was still on maternity leave, and humiliating her when she reassigned her to work as a cleaner following the hiring of a new nanny.

Mills herself briefly broke into tears as she described the support she said she'd given her employee.

Describing herself as "overly helpful Heather," Mills said she hired Trumble as a way "to help her better herself, as I thought she had huge potential." She added that Trumble was "more of a baby sitter" than a qualified nanny.

She also catalogued the gifts she gave her employee, including 1,500 pounds when her money was stolen, 500 pounds for the deposit on a new apartment, and a convertible for loyal service.

The nanny went with Mills to celebrate her birthday in Slovenia and was invited to Richard Branson's private Caribbean island, Necker.

Mills said the two got along so well Trumble even asked her to serve as her child's godmother.

Trumble acknowledged receiving the gifts — as well as a 10,000 pound pay off from McCartney when she resigned in 2008.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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British writer tackles global warming in new novel

"We have witnessed endless conferences on climate change, speeches of exhortation by politicians and others, and yet we go on. The gap between what we say we want to do and what we do remains more or less constant. There's comedy in that, even though the consequences might be very serious."
Ian McEwan, author of Solar

A warming planet, deadlocked politicians, feuding scientists. The headlines about climate change are a source of worry and satisfaction to Ian McEwan.

The British writer's new novel, Solar, brings the problem of global warming up against the fallibility of human nature, a conflict vividly illustrated by the failure of December's Copenhagen conference and the scandal over leaked emails in which climate scientists badmouthed rivals and, skeptics say, distorted data to build their case.

It's all evidence, McEwan said, that "science is messy and full of competition and ego and office politics. It's of human matter."

Solar centres on Michael Beard, a Nobel Prize-winning but past-his-prime physicist who stumbles on a way of making abundant clean energy that may save the planet. That is, if his own multiplying problems — five ex-wives, a love rival, other scientists, his own gluttony — don't catch up with him first.

McEwan said the character — "a roguish man with his best work behind him" — allowed him to "reflect something of our nature, or the worst side of our nature, grappling with this problem."

"We have witnessed endless conferences on climate change, speeches of exhortation by politicians and others, and yet we go on," he said. "The gap between what we say we want to do and what we do remains more or less constant. There's comedy in that, even though the consequences might be very serious."

Like a lot of people, McEwan has been reading and worrying about climate change for years, without finding a way to use it in a novel.

"It's actually a terrible subject for fiction," said McEwan, sitting in a work shirt and casual cords in the front room of his London home, a high-ceilinged town house on a Georgian square whose former residents include George Bernard Shaw and Virginia Woolf. "It's a subject full of graphs and statistics and hard science and evolving science, overlaid enormously with ideology and politics and then, most killingly, virtue. I couldn't really see a way in."

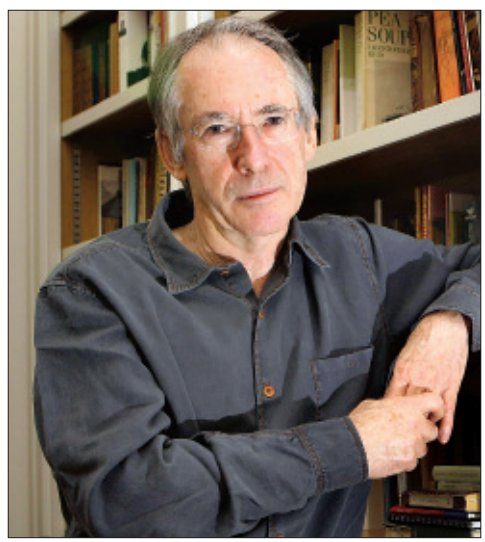
A breakthrough came when he attended a conference of eminent scientists in Germany.

"Everyone had a Nobel prize," he said. "And hanging out with them, I was quite struck by a couple of things. One was the comedy of such grand figures, 30 of them in a room — it was like 30 kings of Bavaria and Greece and Britain and Brazil all in one room. And also — slightly comic, but also probably more tragic — the fact of science is you tend to make your breakthrough discoveries in your youth. These were all very grand figures in tuxedoes with their lives largely behind them.

McEwan, 61, is one of Britain's most respected literary novelists, with a precise prose style and an unflinching eye for the psyche's darker corners — grief in The Child in Time, obsession in Enduring Love.

He won the Booker Prize in 1998 for Amsterdam, and was propelled to a new level of fame by Atonement, his 2001 book about a love affair doomed by war and a child's misunderstanding. Emotional, dramatic and structurally playful, it has sold in the millions. The 2007 film adaptation starring Keira Knightley received seven Academy Award nominations.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS


JOEL RYAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
British author Ian McEwan poses for photographs, following an interview with AP at his home in central London recently.

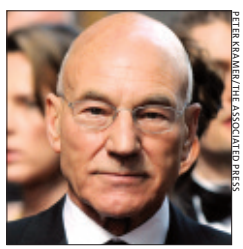
Patrick Stewart returns to Broadway in David Mamet's A Life in the Theatre

BROADWAY Patrick Stewart will star in David Mamet's next Broadway production, a revival of A Life in the Theatre, opening this fall.

Producer Jeffrey Richards announced yesterday that rehearsals will begin Aug. 23 for the play, first seen in Chicago in 1977 and then off-Broadway.

A Life in the Theatre is a backstage tale about the relationship between an older performer and a younger performer. The other role is still to be cast. The director is Neil Pepe.

Stewart was last seen on Broadway in 2008, playing the title character in Macbeth.


PETER KRAMER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
In this June 2008 file photo, actor Patrick Stewart arrives at the 62nd Annual Tony Awards in New York.

Pepe also directed the 2008 Broadway revival of Mamet's Speed-the-Plow.

Mamet currently is represented on Broadway with Race, starring James Spader, David Alan Grier, and Kerry Washington.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Making space for Mickey

Mickey Mouse is apparently eyeing office space at CBC's Toronto headquarters in a proposed deal that could net the public broadcaster a cool $4 million. The CBC has won cabinet approval to lease part of its Toronto offices to The Walt Disney Co. (Canada). THE CANADIAN PRESS

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He was kung fu fighting

Bruce Lee's wife and daughter yesterday unveiled an exhibition of the late kung fu star's personal items, photos and movie posters in Hong Kong.

ARCHIVE PHOTOS/GETTY IMAGES

KIN CHEUNG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Linda Cadwell, far left, widow of the late kung fu star Bruce Lee, (main photo) and Lee's daughter Shannon Lee, left, attend opening ceremony for Bruce Lee's exhibition as part of the event at the Hong Kong International Film Festival in Hong Kong Tuesday, March 30, 2010.

The exhibit, which includes a boxing head guard and a pair of sunglasses used by Lee, is part of a tribute to the late actor at the 34th Hong Kong International Film Festival.

The festival is also hosting a seminar on his work this Sunday and screening nine of his movies in honour of what would have been his 70th birthday later this year.

"I think that he would be thrilled to know that his legacy has gone on and on for as long as it has and that it will continue to go on and inspire people for many, many more years to come," said Lee's daughter, Shannon Lee Kearsley, who attended the opening ceremony with her mother, Linda Lee Cadwell.

Lee became a chest-thumping source of Chinese pride by portraying characters that defended the Chinese and the working class from oppressors in films like Return of the Dragon.

He died in Hong Kong in 1973 at age 32 from swelling of the brain.

"I think my father continues to be really influential because he was so unique," Lee Kearsley said. "There hasn't really been anyone like him."

Lee's daughter said earlier that plans to convert her father's old house in Hong Kong — now used as an hourly love motel — into a museum and to build a new museum in Seattle, where Lee studied and taught martial arts, are in the fundraising stage.

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Actor pleads not guilty
Actor Rip Torn pleaded not guilty yesterday to charges stemming from his January arrest inside a Connecticut bank after hours. Police say the 79-year-old Emmy winner was so intoxicated that he broke into the bank with a loaded gun, thinking it was his home. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pre-revolutionary Iran comes to life

STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada

Shirin Neshat's work has always dealt in creating an awareness of Muslim women. However with Women Without Men, the first-time director may surprise younger moviegoers with an Iranian history lesson as well.

"Most (Iranian) filmmakers are making work that is post-revolutionary Iran because that is what the world is most interested in," said Neshat of her mid-20th Century-set drama. "In fact, most people in the west have forgotten Iran beyond the Islamic Revolution."

Women Without Men opens Friday

While the Islamic Revolution is only one part of the story about four women who escape hostile environments to seemingly discover paradise in a secluded orchard, the era is a revealing aspect that can't be overlooked. After all, in the summer of 1953, the democratically-elected Iranian government was brought down with support from the Americans.

"To depict Iran as a secular society at a time that we did have a leader that the majority really loved and that this was overthrown by the American government, the CIA and (that it) eventually paved the way to the Islamic Revolution… it shows Iran in a very different light," said Neshat, insisting there's another reason for revealing the country's past.

The film Women Without Men chronicles a time in Iran's history when a democratic government was overthrown, with involvement by the CIA.

"It's interesting to see how Iranians throughout generations have been fighting for the same thing — it's just that the people that they fight against change in shape and form and ideology."

Women Without Men isn't just a political drama however. Underneath the history lies a stunning and beautiful story of refuge that has haunted Neshat ever since she read Shahrnush Parsipu's novel.

"(When) Shirin decided that she wanted to make the film, my feeling was that it doesn't translate," said Shoja Azari, Neshat's co-director and real-life partner. "It was very clear very fast that this was not going to be a regular three-act narrative."

As such, the magic realist film plays out with varying elements of drama and fantastical imagery — a style that proved perhaps the filmmakers' greatest challenge.

"(We had to) navigate it between reality and magic but also make a fair balance between parallel stories of these women without confusing the hell out of people," said Neshat. "Artistic film, narrative film — it's just a lot to balance."

Richmond-Peck plays a man with a purpose on returning series V

SCI-FI It's hard to stand out in an ensemble piece, but so far things are going pretty well for V's David Richmond-Peck. The Oakville-born actor's character, Georgie Simon, has gotten some pretty good face time on the series' brief four-episode run so far as the leader of the burgeoning resistance movement against the seemingly peaceful alien Visitors.

"It's one of the reasons that I really wanted to do the show. His type of the character is what really interested me," says Richmond-Peck. "There's a lot of stuff beneath the surface and obviously the stakes involved with knowing that Georgie is one of the only people on the planet that actually knows why the Visitors are here and what that means.

" In the last six or seven years ... we've seen sci-fi shows really up the bar. The writing is what's key,"
David Richmond-Peck

"He has a higher purpose of knowing that he has to go out and fight them, which contrasts with him wanting to have a normal life, which he can't have."

The actor now makes his home in Vancouver, where the series is shot, seemingly becoming the it spot for many sci-fi genre show productions.

"I love it. It's so fantastic to be able to live in this fantastic city, and also be able to work," he says. He's also had cameos and guest spots on several other genre shows, including Eureka, Stargate: Atlantis, Sanctuary and Fringe, but V is his first major role on a network series.

Richmond-Peck lived in Toronto for several years before relocating to the West Coast.

He was in town last week to appear at Wizard World Comic Con and to talk about Zune Marketplace on Xbox LIVE. Like Apple's iTunes store, it's a site where fans can buy the V series if they missed the initial four episodes airing in November. Whether fans will return to the series that took a four-month break is an obvious concern for all involved.

"I think initially what had happened is that I know that ABC had wanted to air it in a pod kind of format, but you do wonder did the fans watch it? Will the people who want to watch it find it again?" he says. "Now we're coming back in our fifth episode and we've got a recap episode that just aired that should put people in good shape for us to pick up where we left off."

The show has not been picked up for a second season yet, so everyone involved is hoping that viewers come back and make it an easy decision for ABC. "We don't know if it's going to be picked up. It started off pretty well, but we'll all see," Richmond-Peck says.

.Secrecy remains high about what's to come next, according to the actor, who can't say anything about what to expect on the remaining episodes, beyond scenarios where the characters are beginning to fight for their lives.

Right now, Richmond-Peck is enjoying the ride. During the break in V's production, he spent time in L.A. talking about other projects, including exploring some film work. So far, he's not at all worried about being typecast in the sci-fi field.

"As an actor, there's always a fear about getting typecast, but I have a solid theatre background as my base; it's pretty easy to slip in and out of very, very different characters," he says. "Besides, in the last six or seven years, with shows like Lost, we've seen sci-fi shows really up the bar. The writing is what's key, and it's fantastic on things like V.

David Richmond-Peck plays Georgie, one of the few people who knows what's really going on in V.

"What you're seeing is that a lot of actors want to jump in because they're being presented with a lot of different opportunities and characters, so I'm not too worried about that."

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Twilight saga continues

BOOKS Attention Twilight fans: Stephenie Meyer has a new book coming out.

Little, Brown Books for Young Readers will release The Short Second Life of Bree Tanner on June 5.

The novella is told from the viewpoint of Bree, a newborn vampire featured in Eclipse. That's one of the books in Meyer's best-selling teen-vampire saga.

Meyer says in a statement yesterday the novella had originally been planned for The Twilight Saga: The Official Guide.

But she says it became too long to fit into the guide.

The publisher says one dollar for each book sold in the U.S. from the first printing of 1.5 million copies will be donated to the American Red Cross International Response Fund. It supports disaster relief efforts such as those in Haiti and Chile.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jon Heder drops out

This is hardly dynamite news for Comedy Central: Jon Heder (Napoleon Dynamite) has abruptly dropped out of the Will Ferrell-produced sitcom he was set to star in for the cable net. EW.COM

Back to the future, again...

Summer will see a hot-tub-full of recycled '80s movie hits screens

Clash of the Titans writers Phil Hay and Matt Manfredi are understandably excited about their movie arriving in theatres Friday. But if you really want to get them going, mention the Red Dawn remake coming later this year.

"I love that movie," Hay says of the 1984 Cold War adventure flick, where Colorado high school students use guerrilla warfare to stave off a Soviet invasion of America. "Everyone from my generation loves Red Dawn. It's really ripe for a remake."

These days, it seems any movie that came out during the 1980s is ripe for a remake. Clash of the Titans and Red Dawn are but two of a significant number of '80s-related films Hollywood will bring to theatres in coming months.

Joining their ranks are Disney's mega-budget Tron sequel starring Jeff Bridges; reboots of The Karate Kid, Predator and Nightmare on Elm Street franchises; a follow-up to Oliver Stone's Wall Street and the Sylvester Stallone-directed The Expendables; an '80s-style, men-on-a-mission movie teaming Stallone with other action stars of his vintage.

"It's crazy, man," Bridges says. "You almost want to look around and make sure people still have their cell phones and laptops. It's like going back in time."

You mean, like stepping into a Hot Tub Time Machine? The nostalgia-infused gross-out comedy Time Machine, which opened last weekend, uses the '80s as a punch line, taking its heroes back to a decade heavy on the leg-warmers, mullets and primary colours.

Chalk it up to the fact that the people who grew up watching Freddy Krueger and Mr. Miyagi are now in a position to greenlight the movies they loved as children. "Certainly, there's a fondness for that culture for those who come of age with it, and now we want to share it," says Columbia Pictures president Doug Belgrad.

Jaden Smith, left, and Jackie Chan star in a new version of The Karate Kid.

In addition to The Karate Kid, Belgrad, 44, and Columbia co-president Matt Tolmach, 45, are developing sequels and reboots to such 1980s properties as Ghostbusters, 21 Jump Street and The Smurfs. 20th Century Fox will release a feature film based on the '80s action-adventure TV series The A-Team this summer.

"Grown-ups are always looking for movies they could share with their kids," Belgrad adds.

With The Karate Kid, he notes, Will Smith took that idea a step further, suggesting remaking one of his favorite childhood movies with his 11-year-old son, Jaden, starring. The new Karate Kid, due in June, shifts the action to Beijing, attempting to add a dash of culture clash to the familiar story.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Wicked returns to Toronto

THEATRE The smash musical Wicked is set to bewitch Toronto again.

Mirvish Productions says the show — which has won a Grammy and three Tony Awards — will return to the city for a third time this October.

The musical is set in the Land of Oz, before Dorothy dropped in, and centres on the friendship of the future Wicked Witch of the West and the Good Witch of the North.

Mirvish says the last time Wicked was in Toronto, in 2005 and 2006, it broke box office records and sold out in record time.

Group tickets to the return engagement, set for Oct. 20 to Nov. 28 at the Canon Theatre, are now on sale. Single tickets will be available starting June 7. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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China's painful separation

Apart Together looks at lasting affects of civil war

FILM Berlin film festival winner Wang Quanan says shooting his new movie, Apart Together, made him appreciate the personal cost of China's civil war.

The Chinese director's film had its Asian premiere yesterday at the Hong Kong International Film Festival.

It is inspired by a true story that reflects how families on opposite sides of the political divide were separated for decades after China split in 1949, when Mao Zedong's communists forced the then-ruling Nationalists, led by Chiang Kai-shek, to retreat to the island of Taiwan.

Apart Together tells how a Nationalist soldier visits the wife he left behind in the mainland who has since remarried. Reunited with the love of his life, the retired soldier wants to bring her back to Taiwan, but his plans spark a major backlash in his wife's new family.

"The strongest feeling I came away with after making this movie is that the pain actual families had to bear because of divisions within a race, a country, are much greater than we think they are," the 45-year-old director said on the sidelines of the Hong Kong festival.

Wang Quanan

"Even if people are reunited, the emotional distance between them created by time takes a long time to overcome," he said.

Apart Together won a Silver Bear for best script at the Berlin International Film Festival in February. Wang's previous film, Tuya's Marriage, won the festival's top Golden Bear prize in 2007.

The Chinese director said his next project will be a 100 million yuan (US$14.6 million) adaptation of Chen Zhongshi's 1993 epic novel, Bailuyuan, which follows the disputes between rival families in a Chinese village through three generations.

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No Idol downtime

Latest castoff reflects on hectic schedule

GETTY IMAGES
American Idol's latest castoff Paige Miles.

The latest American Idol castoff says downtime doesn't exist when you're on the show.

"There are no days off," says 24-year-old Paige Miles.

After tonight's elimination show, there will be little time for sad goodbyes and reflection.

The contestants are required to have decided what song they'll sing for the following week by Thursday mornings. On Friday, they usually record the song for iTunes, and Saturdays are shoots with mentors, such as this week's guest, Usher.

On Sundays, they film music videos. Monday is filled with more recording and rehearsing.

The contestants also try to fit in shopping for that week's shows, as well as interviews with hometown media.

Miles says the jam-packed schedule can affect the contestant's song choice.

"We think about (that) while selecting songs," she said. "What can you truly push out everyday in rehearsal? What can you really commit to over the next several days?"

Last week, she was sent home after singing a version of Against All Odds that Randy Jackson described as "terrible" and Kara DioGuardi said it was possibly the worst vocal of the season.

The 10 contestants now remaining on American Idol will take part in the annual summer tour after the season ends.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

UK's Lythgoe to receive award

Lythgoe

HONOUR UK uber-producer Nigel Lythgoe is being honoured with an award of excellence at the Banff World Television Festival and will deliver a keynote address.

The outspoken Brit is the driving force behind many of television's most-watched reality shows including American Idol, Survivor (UK) and Pop Idol (UK).

In front of the camera, he's best known as a judge on So You Think You Can Dance?, which he also executive produces and co-created.

As a choreographer, Lythgoe has worked with celebrities including Gene Kelly, Bing Crosby, Shirley Bassey and the Muppets.

Other TV stars set to speak at the four-day conference include comic Ricky Gervais, and the masterminds behind The Good Wife, Dexter, The Big Bang Theory and Breaking Bad.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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TO	Vu	SD	C		7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime 3/31/10	265	353	2	TVO	Superfish (N)		The Agenda With Steve Paikin		London Hospital		Human Edge "Bomb Harvest"		Agenda-Paikin
	211	331	3	GTV	Entertainment	ET Canada	Bones (HDTV) (N)		Kitchen Nightmares (PA)		Melrose Place (N)		News Hour
	215	343	4	OMN1	Two/Half Men	The Office	Omni News: Italian Edition (N)		Vivere V	Omni News:	Law & Order: Criminal Intent		Metropia
	210	302	6	CBC	Wheel Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Stars on Ice: On the Edge		Republic of Doyle (DVS)		CBC News: The National		The Hour
	214	344	7	CITY	Law & Order: Special Victims		Mercy		Modern Family	Cougar Town	(10:01) Ugly Betty (N)		News
	212	313	8	CTV	etalk	Access H.	Criminal Minds (HDTV)		American Idol		CSI: NY (HDTV)		CTV News
	218	345	11	CHCH	*Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure* ★★★ (1989, Comedy)				*Analyze This* ★★★ (1999, Comedy) Robert De Niro.				News at 11 (N)
	-	-	14	-	Family Guy	The Simpsons	Omni News: S. Asian Edition		Omni News: Cantonese Edition		Two/Half Men	King	Cold Case
	213	326	15	SUN	George Lopez	The Insider (N)	*Amos & Andrew* ★★ (1993, Comedy) Nicolas Cage.				The Insider	Hitchcock Pres	Becker
	-	387	16	CBS	Inside Edition	Access H.	Old Christine	On Purpose	Criminal Minds (HDTV)		CSI: NY (HDTV)		News 4 at 11
	-	385	17	NBC	Entertainment	The Insider (N)	Minute to Win It		Law & Order: Special Victims		Law & Order: Special Victims		News
	-	386	18	ABC	Wheel Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Easter Beagle	The Middle (N)	Modern Family	Cougar Town	(10:01) Ugly Betty (N)		News
	219	346	20	ACH-B	Degrassi: Next	TMZ (N)	America's Next Top Model (N)		Law & Order: Special Victims		The Listener (DVS)		A News
	-	-	28	FOX	Judge Judy (N)	Two/Half Men	Human Target "Tanarak"		American Idol		Seinfeld	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons
	-	388	61	PBS	PBS NewsHour	Wait for God	Tavis Smiley Reports (N)		American Masters (N)		The Street Stops Here (HDTV) (N)		
	297	652	330	WPX	Two/Half Men	Family Guy	America's Next Top Model (N)		Fly Girls	High Society	PIX News at Ten Tong.		Two/Half Men
	296	654	331	SBK	The Insider (N)	Entertainment	Law & Order: Special Victims		WBZ News (N)	What's-Store	Frasier	Frasier	The Office
	298	653	332	TLA	The Tyra Show		According-Jim	Family Guy	KTLA News	KTLA News	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Top Model
news	502	390	26	NW	The Lang & O'Leary Exchange		Connect with Mark Kelley (N)		CBC News: The National		Compulsive Collectors		National
	500	500	33	CNN	John King, USA (N)		Campbell Brown (N)		Larry King Live (N)		Anderson Cooper 360 (N)		
	509	504	79	CNB	Kudlow Report (Live)		American Greed		American Greed (N)		American Greed		Mad Money
sports	405	417	22	net	UEFA Champ.	The Grid	UFC Fight Night				Sportsnet Connected (HDTV)		Hockey Central
	400	400	30	TSN	NHL Hockey Carolina Hurricanes at Montreal Canadiens. (HDTV) (Live)					SportsCentre		That's Hockey!	SportsCentre
	411	457	58	OLN	Ghost Hunters Academy		Destination Truth		Oper. Repo	Oper. Repo	Ghost Hunters Academy		Destin. Truth
	417	406	81	SC	NASCAR	NASCAR Hub	Racing Chef	NASCAR	Dangerous Drives (HDTV) (N)		Pass Time (N)	Pass Time (N)	Pass Time
family	551	542	25	YTV	iCarly	That's-Weird	Malcolm-Mid.	Hates Chris	8 Simple Rules	What I Like	Family Biz	To Be Indie	Prank Patrol
	554	544	45	TEL	Johnny Test	Total Drama	Total Drama	6TEEN	Futurama	King of the Hill	American Dad	Futurama	Robot Chicken
	556	540	51	FAM	Wingin' It (N)	Suite Life	Sonny Chance	Han. Montana	Wizards-Place	Latest Buzz	Ned's School	Cory in House	That's-Raven
cable variety	602	567	27	W	Supernanny		Grocery Bag	Grocery Bag	Grocery Bag	The Restaurant	*Lucky Girl* (2001, Drama) Elisha Cuthbert.		
	570	580	29	MM	America's Best Dance Crew		disBAND	Video on Trial	Video on Trial	Video on Trial	My Date With...	Jonas Brothers	UR11
	615	520	31	A&E	Criminal Minds (HDTV)		Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Exterminator	Exterminator
	700	800	35	TLN	Centrovetrine	Sky TG 24	Mogli a Pezzi				George Lopez	George Lopez	Lopez Tonight
	571	581	36	MMM	The Daily Fix		Ranked!		mmtop10.ca		Gene Simmons Family Jewels		G. Simmons
	575	583	38	CMT	Amer. Funniest Home Videos		Reba	Reba	According-Jim	According-Jim	Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Due South
	616	521	39	SHO	Relic Hunter		*Trial by Fire* (2008, Drama) Brooke Burns, Rex Linn.				HawthoRNe "Yielding"		Law-Order
	620	523	40	BVO	From the Spirit	Bravo!Videos	Arts & Minds	O'Reagan File	Wingfield	Star Portraits	White Collar (Part 2 of 2)		Law & Order
	601	562	41	SLC	Rich Poor	Rich Poor	End of Leash	End of Leash	End/Leash	End of Leash	End of Leash	End of Leash	ET Canada
	522	506	43	HIS	Pawn Stars	Pawn Stars	Nostradamus Effect		Ice Road Truckers (N)		Ice Pilots NWT (HDTV)		Dive Detect
	625	548	44	COM	Air Farce	22 Minutes	Corner Gas	Name Is Earl	The Simpsons	South Park	Lucky Louie	Hot Box	Daily Show
	600	564	46	H&G	House Hunters	Property Virgin	Agent-Agent	Real Estate	Property Virgin	Unsellables	House Hunters	House Hunters	Holmes/Homes
	294	529	47	TBS	Family Guy	Family Guy	*Dumb & Dumber* ★★ (1994, Comedy) Jim Carrey.				Seinfeld	Name Is Earl	Law & Order
	576	582	49	BET	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live		*Brown Sugar* ★★ (2002, Romance-Comedy) Taye Diggs, Sanaa Lathan.					Family Crews	Mo'Nique
	627	528	50	SPC	Stargate Atlantis (DVS)		Star Trek: Voyager		Chuck (HDTV) (N)		Supernatural (HDTV) (N)		Stargate SG-1
	581	566	52	MTV	Peak Season	Cribs	Cribs	Going Out, Him	The Real World		The Real World (N)		Real World
	618	524	54	TROP	Dog Whisperer		Hoarders "Deborah; Jim"		Hoarders		Parking Wars	Parking Wars	Spoiled Rotten
	603	561	56	FOOD	Ricardo	Eat, Shrink	Challenge		Iron Chef America		Chopped		Restaurant
	261	394	60	V	Murder, She Wrote		No Place Like	Open All Hours	Beasts of the Bible Extraordinary creatures. (N)				Christianity
	621	527	63	STR	Look-A-Like	TMZ	The Ellen DeGeneres Show (N)		The View (HDTV)		The Dr. Oz Show (N)		TMZ
	553	546	65	TRE	Backyardigans	Night Garden	Waybuloo	Max & Ruby	Franklin	Bucket-Dinos	Little Bear	Toopy & Binoo	Max & Ruby
	526	507	249	VIVA	Cold Case		Missing "Analysis"		Medium		Cold Case		Mediums
	300	601	301	M1	(7:15) *Angel and the Badman* (2009, Western)				*Angels & Demons* ★★ (2009, Suspense) Tom Hanks, Ayelet Zurer.				
	305	612	306	PIX	(7:15) *Liberty Stands Still* ★★ (2002, Suspense)				*Seven* ★★★ (1995, Suspense) Brad Pitt.				*Silence-Lambs*
	520	146	-	DISC	Daily Planet (N)		I Could Do	I Could Do	Howe & Howe Tech (N)		Solving History-Olly Steeds		Daily Planet
	637	-	-	TVLND	Red Green	Red Green	Fantasy Island		Hart to Hart		Andy Griffith	Phil Silvers	Bizarre
	605	-	-	FASH	America's Next Top Model		FashionTele	RAW	FT Found Footage		Pretty Wicked		Best Dressed

Wrong side of the in-flight bed
When a flight attendant on an American Airlines flight to Las Vegas tried to wake Jim Belushi, popeater.com reports, the actor started an argument and the captain had to call the police to meet them at the gate, according to TMZ. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Celebrity Buzz

Courting Courtney

HE'S A BRAVE BRAVE MAN AND OBVIOUSLY HAS A THING FOR WASHED-UP BLONDES Courtney Love is dating Uma Thurman's ex-fiancé, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The Hole singer — widow of Nirvana frontman Kurt Cobain — began romancing hotelier André Balazs earlier this year and is completely smitten with the handsome businessman and insists the feeling is mutual.

She wrote in an email to a friend: "I'm in lurve (sic). It's nice. Scary. I'm a great catch and he can be a bad boy but he loves me.

"He is the sweetest thing and he actually totally does respect me. His manners are impeccable but he is funny too (sic)."

Love — who has repeatedly claimed to have been defrauded of her wealth by various people — has been staying in a suite at the Mercer Hotel in New York, which her new beau owns, but now says she is spoilt by choices over places where she can stay.

"He has properties everywhere and has given me the key to his apartment, but what is better than living in his hotel?" she said.

GETTY IMAGES

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Puff, puff, pass the pumps

THAT'S HOW THE REFRAIN GOES, RIGHT? Lindsay Lohan has chosen an interesting way of addressing the cloud of suspicion she's been under since being snapped with white powder pumping out of her high-heels: Attack George Lopez, popeater.com reports.

The Mean Girls star took to her Twitter (what else?) to take on the comedian over a supposed joke he made on the Monday episode of his late-night talk show, George Lopez Tonight.

According to reports, Lopez joked Lohan uses baby powder to loosen up her snug shoes.

This seemingly harmless riff set off Lohan, who wrote: "Thanks for the childish comment regarding baby powder in my shoes to loosen up the leather ... don't you have kids?"

She then added, "Act like a grown man, have some respect and dignity for yourself."

Lopez did not make the jab during his monologue, nor in any clips made available by TBS for Monday.

Lohan was leaving a friend's house in Los Angeles on Saturday when a generous amount of white powder started shooting out of her shoes.

In some angles, it appeared there was smoke puffing out of her feet.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Carrie would know

JEEZ, SARAH, WHY CAN'T YOU BE MORE LIKE THE FICTIONAL CHARACTER YOU PLAY? Sarah Jessica Parker is no good at giving relationship advice, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The Sex and the City star — who has three children with her husband of 12 years, Matthew Broderick — isn't an expert when it comes to romance, but thinks it's important for someone to have complete faith in their partner.

"Oh, I am not a good advice giver but I would say the obvious — lack of communication is where things go wrong for people," she said.

"I'm certainly no expert in relationships, God knows, but you need to be with someone who believes in you 100 per cent. If you don't have that, there's no point."

The 45-year-old actress wants to be happily married for the rest of her life, and has admitted she wants to continue kissing her co-stars and husband until she is 70 or 80 years old.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Best couple they can be

I THINK I JUST THREW UP A LITTLE BIT Heidi Montag and Spencer Pratt want the world to know that they're not splitting up, despite rumours that Montag was moving out of their Pacific Palisades home, according to People magazine.

"I'm not moving out," Montag says. "I love Spencer with all my heart."

The reality star admits that she and her husband have had some ups and downs lately, though, even discussing divorce at one point.

"I was being dramatic," she says. "We've worked through things and will continue to work on our relationship so we're the best couple we can be."

METRO WORLD NEWS

Not completely honest

HE LIED TO "BOMBSHELL" TOO. SHOCKER! Michelle "Bombshell" McGee, the woman who allegedly carried on an 11-month affair with Jesse James, thought he and wife Sandra Bullock had already split up, according to Michelle's father.

"She was under the impression they weren't seeing each other," Denny McGee tells Cleveland's WJW-TV.

Denny says Michelle got quite a shock when she saw Bullock and James together at the Academy Awards.

"She felt like she was going to have a relationship, and this happened, and she was mad," Denny says.

METRO WORLD NEWS

There ain't no song

NOPE, THAT'S IT. THERE JUST AIN'T NO SONGS Amy Winehouse has reportedly delayed the release of her next album, according to digitalspy.com.

The singer allegedly travelled to Jamaica last month to work on the record but sparked concern that it would be postponed when she invited her partner Blake Fielder-Civil to join her.

The Daily Star has now claimed that Winehouse decided to drop some tracks from the album because they were negative towards Fielder-Civil.

"Amy has written some of her best songs ever for this album but she now feels like they don't belong," a source explained.

"She's not going to put out an album just because her record company wants her to, so it's back to the drawing board."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Follow these celebrities on Twitter...

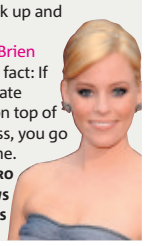
CelebTweets

ELIZABETH BANKS is looking to celebrate, **GOLDIE HAWN** is enjoying the view, and **CONAN O'BRIEN** is learning about different religions.

@ElizabethBanks RNC partied at Voyeur? That's where we had my bday party. I wanna party with the RNC & fret about Armageddon!

@goldiehawn Full moon tonight. The mountains surrounding our house are glowing white, mystical, I am reminded of the magic of life. Look up and dream

@ConanOBrien Jewish fun fact: If you celebrate Passover on top of an overpass, you go back in time.



METRO NEWS SERVICES

Not taking the kids

OH BUDDY, YOU REALLY MESSED THIS ONE UP Reports that Sandra Bullock was going to go ahead with plans to adopt Jesse James' children despite their marital troubles are apparently false.

"There are no plans, nor have there ever been any plans, for Sandra Bullock to adopt any of Jesse James' children," her rep tells People magazine. Meanwhile, a source insists Bullock is going ahead with the divorce proceedings because the last month has left her feeling humiliated, sources tell Radar Online.

METRO WORLD NEWS

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Today Sunny 18°/ 6°

Thursday Partly cloudy 21°/ 12°

Friday Mainly sunny 25°/ 12°

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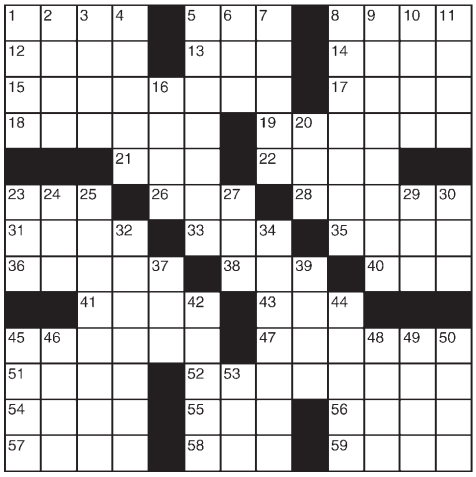
Take Five



Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

		9				3		
	7	4	5		9	1	2	
8	6						9	4
			2	9	5			
				6				
			1	7	3			
9	1						5	2
	2	5	4		8	6	3	
		3				7		

ACROSS

1 Unit of cultural information
5 "Flying Down to —"
8 Gospels' follower
12 Director Reitman
13 Work unit
14 Exceptional
15 Red flier
17 Very dry, as champagne
18 Guarantee
19 Chopin pieces
21 Church furniture
22 Information
23 Killer whale
26 Used 21-Across
28 Childhood disease
31 Pinnacle
33 Meadow
35 Angry
36 Throat affliction
38 Pismire
40 Tend the lawn
41 Act
43 Society newbie
45 Treeless tract
47 What some guests become during a wedding
51 Sea eagle
52 Sweater type
54 Storyteller
55 Yoko of music
56 Creche figures
57 Privation
58 Yang counterpart
59 — school

DOWN

1 Cinderella's horses, before
2 Actress — Rachel Wood
3 The Red Planet
4 Ultimately become
5 Urban modernization
6 401(k) alternative
7 Looked lecherously
8 Creeper with pink flowers
9 Spice in Indian cuisine
10 Verifiable
11 Collections
16 Enrages
20 Highland hat
23 Chances, for short
24 On a pension (Abbr.)
25 Cuban port city
27 Afternoon social
29 Expert
30 Stitch
32 Guardians
34 Half a pair at the fireplace
37 Energy
39 Take care of
42 Luring device
44 Goodyear symbol
45 Vend
46 56-Across, e.g.
48 Thickening agent
49 Carry on
50 Quick cut
53 Blackbird

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

F	A	D	E	■	C	B	S	■	H	O	Y	A
I	B	I	S	■	R	I	O	■	E	V	E	N
F	L	A	T	H	E	A	D	■	A	U	T	O
E	E	L	■	A	S	S	■	A	D	M	I	N
■	■	■	T	U	T	■	F	I	T	■	■	■
S	E	P	A	L	■	J	A	M	A	I	C	A
K	N	O	B	■	T	A	X	■	B	O	A	T
Y	E	L	L	O	W	Y	■	P	L	U	M	E
■	■	■	E	C	O	■	S	E	E	■	■	■
B	L	A	S	T	■	M	A	N	■	A	G	E
R	I	G	A	■	S	A	L	T	F	L	A	T
O	R	A	L	■	R	I	V	■	E	P	I	C
W	A	R	T	■	O	N	E	■	B	O	T	H

3	2	8	9	1	4	5	7	6
4	7	6	5	3	8	9	1	2
9	5	1	2	6	7	3	4	8
7	6	2	3	9	5	1	8	4
8	1	9	4	7	6	2	5	3
5	4	3	1	8	2	6	9	7
1	3	7	6	4	9	8	2	5
6	8	5	7	2	1	4	3	9
2	9	4	8	5	3	7	6	1

On the web

For more games and 60 additional daily cartoon strips, visit metronews.ca

Metro Recipe of the Day

Indian Spicy Potatoes with Spinach and Lentils

INGREDIENTS:

750 g potatoes, peeled and cubed
250 g spinach
3 1/2 tbsp peanut oil
1 onion, finely sliced
2-in. piece fresh ginger, peeled and finely chopped
1 green chili pepper, halved, seeded and finely sliced
1 tsp ground coriander
1/4 tsp ground turmeric
2 x 250-g packages cooked green lentils
2 garlic cloves, cut into fine shreds
1/2 tsp cumin seeds
2 tbsp chopped cilantro

METHOD:

1. Cook potatoes until just tender. Drain.

2. Meanwhile, cook spinach in steamer over potatoes 3-4 minutes, or pierce bag of spinach several times and cook in microwave 2-3 minutes to wilt. Tip into colander and drain, squeezing out liquid with spoon.

3. Heat large pan with 3 tbsp oil. Add onion and cook over medium heat 2 minutes, then stir in ginger, chili pepper, coriander and turmeric. Cook a few seconds, then add potato cubes and stir-fry 3-4 minutes. Stir spinach into spicy potato mixture together with lentils. Season to taste. Heat gently until piping hot.

4. Heat remaining oil in small pan. Add garlic and cumin; cook until lightly browned. Stir in half of cilantro. Tip potato and lentil mixture into serving dish and sprinkle with garlic and cumin mixture and remaining cilantro.

SERVES 4

rd.ca

For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to **rd.ca** or check out **Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!**

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton sallybrompton.com

For Sally's expanded daily and weekend horoscopes, visit metronews.ca

ARIES ♈
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
You need to bring balance and stability to your financial situation. Give it some thought.

TAURUS ♉
APRIL 21-MAY 21
If a situation calls for tact today you will use it and get whatever it is that you desire.

GEMINI ♊
MAY 22-JUNE 21
Cosmic activity in the most sensitive area of your chart suggests there is something you would rather the world did not find out about you.

CANCER ♋
JUNE 22-JULY 22
You can quite easily persuade other people to see things your way but make sure your way is the right way if you want to stay popular.

LEO ♌
JULY 23-AUG 23
How important is ambition to you? Today's transit of Venus over the midheaven angle of your chart urges you to remember that it isn't everything.

VIRGO ♍
AUG 24-SEPT 22
The less you reveal about your comings and goings today the more others will be intrigued.

LIBRA ♎
SEPT 23-OCT 23
Practice what you preach today or leave yourself open to criticism. Resist the urge to cut corners and don't try to get something for nothing.

SCORPIO ♏
OCT 24-NOV 22
Relationships of all kinds are about to enter a gentler, more tranquil phase. But don't let others think you've turned into an easy touch.

SAGITTARIUS ♐
NOV 23-DEC 21
Make sure that what you have to do gets done properly. Don't cut corners or your reputation will suffer in the long-term.

CAPRICORN ♑
DEC 22-JAN 20
Why make life more complicated than it needs to be? What is meant to happen will happen at the right time.

AQUARIUS ♒
JAN 21-FEB 18
Make an effort to please other people today. Not everyone may deserve it but it will do your reputation a great deal of good.

PISCES ♓
FEB 19-MARCH 20
You can get away with almost anything today, but that is not an excuse to break the rules.

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CHANGES ON THE GO

STARTING APRIL 3, 2010, GO TRANSIT IS MAKING SEVERAL SYSTEM-WIDE SERVICE CHANGES TO BRING SCHEDULES IN LINE WITH ACTUAL TRAVEL TIMES AND TO MEET THE CHANGING NEEDS AND DEMANDS OF OUR RIDERSHIP.

01 – LAKESHORE WEST GO TRAIN & BUS
There will be minor schedule adjustments to trains including some earlier departures, and changes to bus trips that connect to train service including the **12–Niagara GO Bus** route.

09 – LAKESHORE EAST GO TRAIN & BUS
A new weekday westbound train trip will depart Oshawa GO Station at 6:47 a.m., serve Whitby at 6:53, Ajax at 7:01, Pickering at 7:06, then run express to Union Station arriving at 7:38 a.m.

With this new train trip, there will be schedule adjustments to other morning train trips including some earlier departures and changes to bus trips that connect to train service including the **81–Port Perry GO Bus** and the **88–Peterborough GO Bus** routes.

20–MILTON-OAKVILLE GO BUS
There will be minor schedule changes to connect with the adjusted Lakeshore West trains and some trips will no longer operate.

21 – MILTON GO TRAIN
All weekday eastbound train trips will arrive into Union Station three minutes later. Departure times at other stations remain the same.

31 – GEORGETOWN GO TRAIN & BUS
The westbound 2:45 p.m. train from Union Station will now depart at 3:30 and times will be later at all stops along the route. The trip will be extended to also serve Mount Pleasant and Georgetown.

The westbound 6:45 p.m. train from Union will be extended to serve Mount Pleasant at 7:36. A connecting bus is available to Georgetown. With this change, the westbound 6:30 p.m. bus trip from Union to Mount Pleasant and the 6:35 bus trip from Union to Georgetown will no longer operate.

The eastbound 10:25 a.m., 12:15 p.m. and 1:45 train trips from Bramalea to Union and the connecting bus trips will no longer operate. The westbound 9:40, 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. trains from Union to Bramalea and the connecting bus trips will no longer operate.

These train trips will be replaced with 22 bus trips providing more frequent service.

34 – BRAMPTON LOCAL, HWY. 27 & 427 GO BUS
The weekday eastbound 3:00 p.m., 4:00 and 5:00 trips from Brampton to York Mills will no longer operate.

37 – ORANGEVILLE GO BUS
There will be minor schedule changes including earlier departures to connect with the adjusted Georgetown train.

The weekday southbound 12:12 p.m. trip from Orangeville Mall will now depart at 12:35 and times will be later at all stops along the route. Customers travelling to Union Station may take a connecting bus from Brampton GO Station.

The weekday northbound 3:54 p.m. trip from Brampton Bus Terminal will now depart at 4:22 and times will be later at all stops along the route with arrival in Orangeville at 5:17. This trip connects to the 3:30 p.m. Georgetown train.

38 – BOLTON-HWY. 50 GO BUS
There will be minor schedule changes including earlier departures to connect with the adjusted Georgetown train.

The weekday southbound 11:35 a.m. trip from Hwy. 50 and Columbia Way will now depart at 11:20 and times will be earlier at all stops along the route.

The weekday southbound 1:05 p.m. trip from Hwy. 50 and Columbia Way will now depart at 1:20 and times will be later at all stops along the route.

The weekday northbound 10:14 a.m. trip from Malton will now depart at 10:00 and times will be earlier at all stops along the route.

The weekday northbound 1:34 p.m. trip from Malton will now depart at 2:00, and the 3:19 p.m. trip will now depart at 4:04. Times will be later at all stops on both trips.

Customers travelling to Union Station may take a connecting bus from Malton GO Station.

40 – AIRPORT EXPRESS GO BUS
There will be minor schedule adjustments at Richmond Hill Centre and Pearson Airport. Service between Square One and Pearson will no longer operate. Customers travelling between Richmond Hill and Square One can be served by Hwy. 407 GO Bus services at the new westbound stop at Keele St. and Great Gulf Dr., or the new eastbound stop at Keele and Snidercroft. Mississauga Transit also provides service options between Square One and Pearson.

61 – RICHMOND HILL GO TRAIN & BUS
There will be earlier departures from Richmond Hill, Langstaff and Old Cummer and all train trips will arrive at Union Station three minutes later.

GO Bus service to Oriole and Old Cummer will no longer operate. Passengers can be served by the TTC.

62 – NEWMARKET "B" GO BUS
Service will be reduced to five southbound morning and five northbound afternoon trips until Friday, June 25, 2010. After June 25, GO Transit will no longer operate this route to avoid duplication of York Region Transit services in this area.

65 – BARRIE-BRADFORD GO TRAIN & BUS
There will be earlier southbound train departures, and arrivals at Union Station will be three minutes later.

There will be minor adjustments to northbound train times between York University GO Station and Barrie South and adjusted times on connecting buses.

The weekday southbound 5:07 a.m. and 5:32 bus trips from Barrie and John St. in Bradford to Newmarket, and the northbound 12:15 a.m. bus from Newmarket to Bradford will no longer operate.

The weekday southbound 6:20 a.m. bus trip from Barrie Bus Terminal to Maple and the northbound 4:58 p.m. bus trip from Rutherford to Barrie will no longer operate.

The weekday southbound 12:45 p.m. and 1:45 bus trips from King City to Union and the weekday northbound 10:20, 11:20 a.m. and 12:20 p.m. trips from Union to King City will no longer operate.

69 – SUTTON GO BUS
The weekday northbound 4:40 p.m. trip from Newmarket GO Bus Terminal will now depart at 4:35 and times will be earlier at all stops along the route with arrival in Beaverton at 6:10 p.m.

71 – STOUFFVILLE GO TRAIN
Train arrivals at Union Station will be three minutes later. Departure times at other stations remain the same.

OSHAWA GO BUS SERVICES
There will be minor schedule adjustments to some trips on the **94–Oshawa Hwy. 2**, **95–Oshawa Hwy. 2 Express** and the **96–Oshawa Hwy. 401** routes.

The weekday eastbound 6:10 p.m. trip from Scarborough Town Centre to Oshawa and the weekday westbound 7:00 a.m. and 7:40 p.m. trips from Oshawa to Scarborough Town Centre will no longer operate.

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